

Heather 'n Yon

March 2025
Vol. 39, No. 1

Heather Gardens
Community Magazine

Rita the Rock Planter

by artist
Thomas Dambo

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Victor, Colo.





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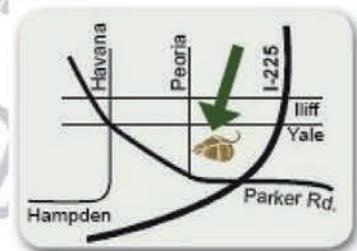
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SPRING
Thursday, March 20



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Our Staff

Publisher

Bluefish Publishing

Editor

Susan Harman

bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com

303.521.8846

Photographer

Janis Farrell

jcfarrell225@gmail.com

Distribution

Matt Dunne

mdunne259@aol.com



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

Writers

Mary Hafka

mhafka@comcast.net

Gloria Leshner

gjlesher@gmail.com

Patricia McLaughlin

mpa1026@qwestoffice.net

Laura Reed

ltreed@berkeley.edu

Classified Advertising

Brian Harman

720.373.0226

bfpublishinginfo@gmail.com

Advertising Sales

Susan Harman

303.521.8846

bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com

Trademark Owner:

HG Association

2888 S. Heather Gardens Way

Aurora, CO 80014

303.755.0652

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Independent Living: Safety for Residents & Properties Will Be Studied

HGA Board Meeting
Independent Living Policy
Capital Reserves Study
Water Conservation Process
New Town Hall Meetings

A definition of Independent Living and a policy to be developed was a major topic at the Heather Gardens Association board meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 18.

With the safety of HG residents and properties paramount to the Board, the meeting began with an update from Security Chief Dave Marris. With charts and graphs of recent activity, Marris noted an increase in number of calls for help the Security Team has answered within the last year.

The Incident Tracking Report compiled by Marris reveals more than 5,100 calls over the 12 month period, February, 2024-February, 2025. Of that total, requests for welfare checks were 149, amounting to about a dozen per month. Requests are from family members and friends, with an example being a neighbor reporting that he or she usually has coffee with someone and now hasn't seen that person for four or five days. Additionally, the report shows that rescue assist calls, such as for falls, were 690, or about 56 a month.

Over that same period, there were 44 reports of smoke in a building, such as someone smoking and setting their easy chair on fire and fires started by forgetting a pot on the stove or setting the microwave for too many minutes, resulting in the appliance bursting into flames. "It isn't necessarily by age but by physical and mental condition," Marris noted.

As an independent living property, it is imperative that HGA develop a policy within the Declarations of the Association.

The board will proceed to research independent living statutes in other states and to consult organizations in our community which provide expert advice on the issue, including the Colorado Gerontological Society. Additionally, Director David Baxter, Chair of HGA's Security, Emergency Preparedness Committee (SEC), added that the committee will be an active participant in the effort.

Capital Reserves Study: Board President Sue McBeth reintroduced the Capital Reserves Study, with Director John Recob strongly recommending that the study proceed. It will evaluate needs for

both HGA and HGMD at a cost of \$25,000. Motion passed.

Water Conservation Process: Ongoing excitement was expressed by HGA directors who are monitoring the Water Conservation Process that Mitch Albert, CP3, is developing, describing it as "tremendously valuable." The deep dive study into HG water usage and collaboration with the city of Aurora presents opportunities to cut usage and to obtain grants from the City. Currently, Mitch is presenting information to residents in a Lifelong Learners class at the clubhouse.

Town Hall Meetings: As a new means of improving communication for the community, Director Linda Hileman, Chair of the Community Engagement and Communications Committee (CECC), announced the launch of a monthly Town Hall. A guest will present at each meeting. First Town Hall is slated for Friday, March 7 in the clubhouse and by Zoom.

Director Bradford Archer, who co-chairs the Joint Long Range Planning Committee with HGMD Director David Kennedy, added that the results of the recent HG Census reflected that improvement in the communications process rated highly in written comments on the Census form from HG residents.

Meet the HGMD Candidates: With regularly scheduled HGMD board elections set for May, 2025, Director Bill Archambault, Civic Affairs Committee Chair, noted that the committee has offered to set up a Meet the Candidates event. Residents are invited to attend at the clubhouse or by Zoom.

Carry Forward on Capital Projects: Based on the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, motion was made and passed on the Carry Forward of the 2024 Capital Projects. The budget of \$3,517,900 was budgeted previously.

2025 Asphalt Road Repairs Projects: Motion passed to proceed with a budgeted \$103,500. This is an allocation from the \$356,000 Capital Project funds and will cover necessary asphalt road repairs. The project will be overseen by Jon Howell, HGA Maintenance Facility Engineer.

Van for on-duty Custodial staff: A motion passed to authorize the purchase of a used van with ramp for the Custodial Department at a cost of \$15,000 plus insurance, with the cost offset by the insurance settlement of \$6,000 for the previous vehicle. The van will be used by custodial staff while on duty, with the ramp necessary for transporting heavy equipment, such as carpet cleaning machines and supplies, to use as custodians go from building to building. Currently, there is no HG owned vehicle for custodial use.

HGA Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month, 1 p.m., in the clubhouse board room and by Zoom. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 18.

Residents are encouraged to attend. For more information, including board meeting minutes, visit www.heathergardens.org. Click on the green tab in the upper right to access HGA/HGMD meetings.

Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Votes to Dismiss Lawsuit Against the Heather Gardens Association

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors voted to dismiss the lawsuit against the Heather Gardens Association at a special meeting January 30, 2025. All directors were present in the boardroom, as was general manager Lary Herkal. The district's general counsel, Jennifer Ivey, attended the meeting via Zoom.

The district filed the lawsuit against the association in December 2023 for breach of the management agreement and a trial date has been set for April 14, 2025. A forensic audit is underway to investigate whether the association correctly charged the district under the terms of the agreement, and the association is preparing the reconciliations necessary to make that determination.

While the directors were unanimous in their desire to dismiss the lawsuit, they disagreed on whether or not to dismiss it with or without prejudice. According to Ivey, both options will terminate the lawsuit, but if it's dismissed with prejudice, the board will not have the ability to bring the same lawsuit again. This could be a concern should the forensic audit uncover overcharges that the district would wish to recover at a later date.

"My understanding is that if option one is selected, with prejudice, and it was found that there was some issue related with overcharging, that the district could not bring a claim based on that going forward," Ivey said.

Director Forrest McClure put forth a motion to dismiss the lawsuit with prejudice, arguing, in part, that the threat of continued litigation would harm the community by discouraging lenders from making FHA loans to buyers and potentially have an effect on the community's ability to receive FHA

certification in the future. Directors David Kenney and Eloise Laubach agreed with McClure's motion.

Directors Bill Gold and Steve Stratton disagreed with the option of dismissal with prejudice, both citing the district's fiduciary responsibility if something is found in the forensic audit that would require reinstating the lawsuit. Gold reiterated that dismissing the lawsuit without prejudice would terminate the lawsuit and should resolve the lenders' concerns while allowing the district to maintain its fiduciary responsibility.

"If we do this, it will solve the problem with the loans, it just gives us the option if we find something to reopen it," Gold said.

Kennedy pointed out that the district has other avenues besides a lawsuit to correct overcharges. Both he and McClure expressed concern that the threat of potential litigation could harm negotiations with the association.

After hearing from members of the public who made statements in support of both options, a majority of the board voted in favor of dismissing the lawsuit with prejudice. Bill Gold was the sole director to vote against the motion.

Earlier in the meeting, the board entertained a motion to add an addendum to the forensic audit engagement letter and an amendment to that motion to dismiss the forensic audit entirely. Both the motion and the amended motion were withdrawn and may be reconsidered at a later date.

Finally, at the end of the meeting, the board unanimously approved a motion to engage Rubin Brown to conduct the district's 2024 audit. Rubin Brown is currently conducting the district's 2023 audit.

Water Conservation Study

The Joint Long Range Planning Committee meeting on March 19 will be dedicated to the Heather Gardens Water Conservation Study. Mitch Albert, resident of Heather Gardens and author of the study will report out his findings and recommendations. Both boards (HGA and HGMD), HGA staff and all residents are invited to attend the meeting on Wednesday, March 19 at 10am in the boardroom and on Zoom.



Heather Gardens

TOWN HALL MEETING

Friday, March 7 • 4-6pm

Sandberg Auditorium

Why: To update you on the latest developments at HG and offer direct, engaging, and insightful answers to your questions and recommendations by those in the know at HG

Highlighted Topic:

Communications w/ Linda Hileman

Panel

Lary Herkal · General Manager

Sue McBeth · HGA President

Bill Gold · HGMD President

Zoom Link:

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HGMD Board President Reports

Bill Gold

What a day/week/month this has been! I am about halfway through the weekend working through agendas, minutes, motions and e-mails. I took a second to think about the last few days and then realized I needed to get this letter out to the community.

Where to start ... we have had a whirlwind of activity this last month and trying to get it all into a letter to you seems impossible. So, I will touch on the things that stand out to me from the last month.

I think the number one thing that comes to my mind that occurred over the last few weeks was that the lawsuit between HGD & HGMD is over. Yes, this is behind us and as I have said before we can continue to heal. This week, the same day I got the final notification that the lawsuit was over, Sue McBeth and I had a couple approach us in the clubhouse. They told us that they had been waiting for months for some kind of resolution and that they had been "On Hold" to close on their condo. They were very close to the loan falling through and needed an answer.

Things I know from all this:

- No matter how this suit ended, some would be disappointed. But everyone who wanted to comment on this at the HGMD Board meeting was given the time allowed to speak. We did our best to do this with little to no interruption or over talk and absolutely no raised voices.
- Many said that the lawsuit did not affect loans or home sales. It affected this couple.
- The HGMD Board did not have 100% agreement on how to end the lawsuit, but we treated each other with respect, took turns talking and again no raised voices or outbursts.

I am very proud to be part of a board that can have an open disagreement, constructive discussion, end with a vote and then move on to our next topic.

The HGA & HGMD Boards have been meeting weekly for two hours plus to look at options for a new agreement between the two entities. These have been going very well and I have seen a level of professionalism and respect that has been missing for some time at HG.

I wish I could say we are close to the end, but sadly, this process is not something that we will resolve overnight or even over a few meetings. We have two very different organizations that are trying to find ways to work together to control costs for the residents, meet all the legal requirements for each organization and maintain/improve all the services the community has built over the many years it has existed.

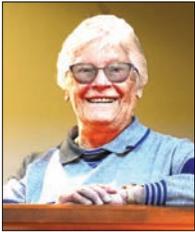
I can say that the boards are working on a very promising plan that could put nearly all the public facing control "under one roof." I think this would provide the residents of HG with a much simpler structure that more residents could understand and work with. I don't want to go too deep into this plan for two reasons: 1) It deals with a lot of very complex legal issues that need to be worked through; and 2) It is incredibly boring. So, let's just say that we have tons of info available via our new HGMD YouTube channel that we will move on to now.

The HGMD board's new YouTube channel is very exciting stuff and much more enjoyable to read about. You have many ways to find this channel:

- On the HGMD website at www.hgmetrodist.org, the link can be found right on the home page "Link to all 2025 HGMD Meeting Videos."
- On the HGMD Web calendar at <https://www.hgmetrodist.org/heather-gardens-metropolitan-district>, if you open any of the meeting pages you will see a link to the recording of that meeting. This should make it easier to find the exact meeting you are looking for.
- You can go right to the YouTube channel by entering www.youtube.com/@HeatherGardensMD/ videos into your favorite web browser.
- You can just open the YouTube app on your phone via its website and search for @Heathergardensmd.
- If all these fail, we are thinking about having a session at the clubhouse where we can demo how to get to them. More info on this will be coming as needed.

Well, I am way over my 500-word recommended limit so I will end by thanking every member of this community for the kind words, handshakes, encouragement and hugs (that is the nurse in me). You all keep me going and lift my heart. I hope I can continue to serve you all well.

Blessings, Bill



HGA Board President Reports

Sue McBeth

March comes to us after some cold and snowy weather in February. Although we can't see many shamrocks in our lawn just yet, I'm sure all of our buildings will be sprouting them for St. Patrick's Day. The three leaves of the shamrock are said to stand for faith, hope and love, and when we see a fourth leaf, that stands for LUCK! Four leaf clovers were Celtic charms, offering magical protection and warding off bad luck. There are approximately 10,000 three-leaf clovers to every "lucky" four-leaf clover. So when you find one, it is truly your lucky day!

The HGA/HGMD Boards have been meeting weekly since January 23. These meetings are going very well, with board members who are engaged and looking for solutions that will benefit the Heather Gardens Community. Forrest McClure, HGMD Board member, sent out five possible proposals for the boards to look at for potential settlement options. One option that most members of both boards took an interest in is a lease option or Asset Management Agreement. After some discussion both boards agreed that it is best for the attorneys to review this option for feasibility; our attorneys are still working on this.

Another proposal is a Shared Services Agreement. In this one, many duplicative services would be shared by both boards for managing Heather Gardens. HGMD would maintain accounting services, per their contract with CRS. Other work such as Human Resources, Finance, Procurement, Facilities Management, Communication, Project Management and Data Analytics seemed to lend themselves to a shared services concept.

At the last meeting on February 10, the boards prioritized these items and decided on Human Resources, Facilities Management, Finance, and Communication for further discussion. Four breakout groups have been formed to further delineate the functions to be included in each topic; these groups will report back at the next meeting on February 24.

The Leadership Sessions, where the presidents and vice-presidents of both boards meet with General Manager Lary Herkal, are going well. A new Clubhouse Manager, Jaunita Dominguez, has been hired and starts her employment with us on March 3. She is very energetic and should help stabilize the Activity Desk functions and the overall management of the clubhouse.

Other items covered in these sessions include: maintaining the fitness center equipment in good order, how to proceed with the payment owed to HGA by HGMD for services performed in 2024, how to hire more teachers for classes, and what both boards need to do to stop the HGMD initiated lawsuit.

In closing, I would like to share the Cowboy Ethics that Daniel L. Richie, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Denver, who passed away on January 30, 2025, lived by:

1. Live each day with courage
2. Take pride in your work
3. Always finish what you start
4. Do what has to be done
5. Be tough, but fair
6. When you make a promise, keep it
7. Ride for the brand
8. Talk less and say more
9. Remember that some things aren't for sale
10. Know where to draw the line

I hope that I can incorporate these actions in to how I live my life each day.

Until next time, HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY – may the luck of the four-leaf clover be yours in the days to come.

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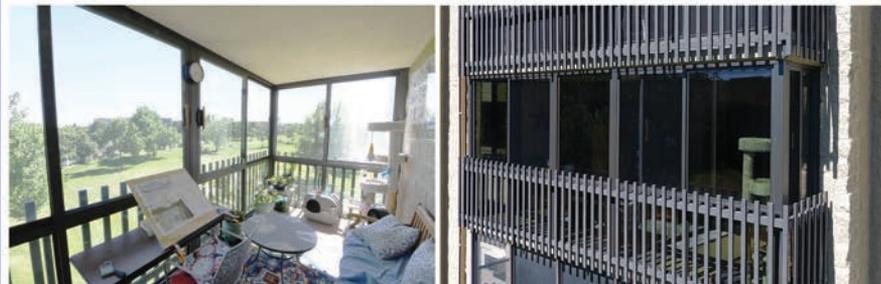
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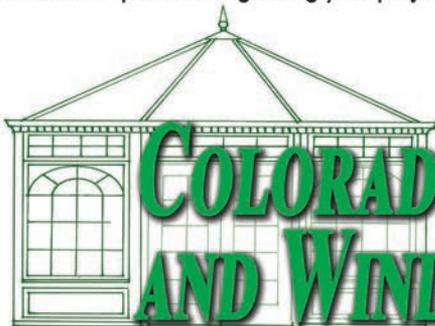


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A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



*Hello
Heather Gardens!*

Recently, Brian and I ventured to Cripple Creek, Colo. for an “Ice Castle” event that did not disappoint. While in the area, we visited our first Thomas Dambo troll “Rita the Rock Planter” (see cover photo). Rita, located in Victor, Colo., is a breathtaking 21 feet tall and is made completely out of discarded wood.

Dambo, a Danish recycling artist, has created over 100 trolls in 17 countries all over the world and has hidden them in the forest for us to go and find.

“My mission is Waste No More: our world is drowning in trash while we are running out of natural resources. I spend my life showing the world that beautiful things can be made out of trash, I give new life to discarded materials by turning them into large-scale artworks.” -Thomas Dambo

It takes 5 tons of scrap wood to build 1 troll. According to Dambo, 12 million tons of scrap wood is driven to the landfill every year. That is actually enough to build 2.5 million trolls.

“I believe that anything can be made out of anything, and that there should be no such thing as trash.” Dambo remarked in his Ted Talk “The Fine art of Dumpster Diving.”

Our next visit will be to “Isak Heartstone” who dwells in Breckenridge, Colo. And beyond that, we will consult the “Troll Map” to plan more adventures.

Learn more about the Dambo Trolls and the art of upcycling: www.thomasdambo.com

Happy March and happy troll hunting!

-Susan Harman, Editor
Heather 'n Yon Magazine

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HGMD Foundation

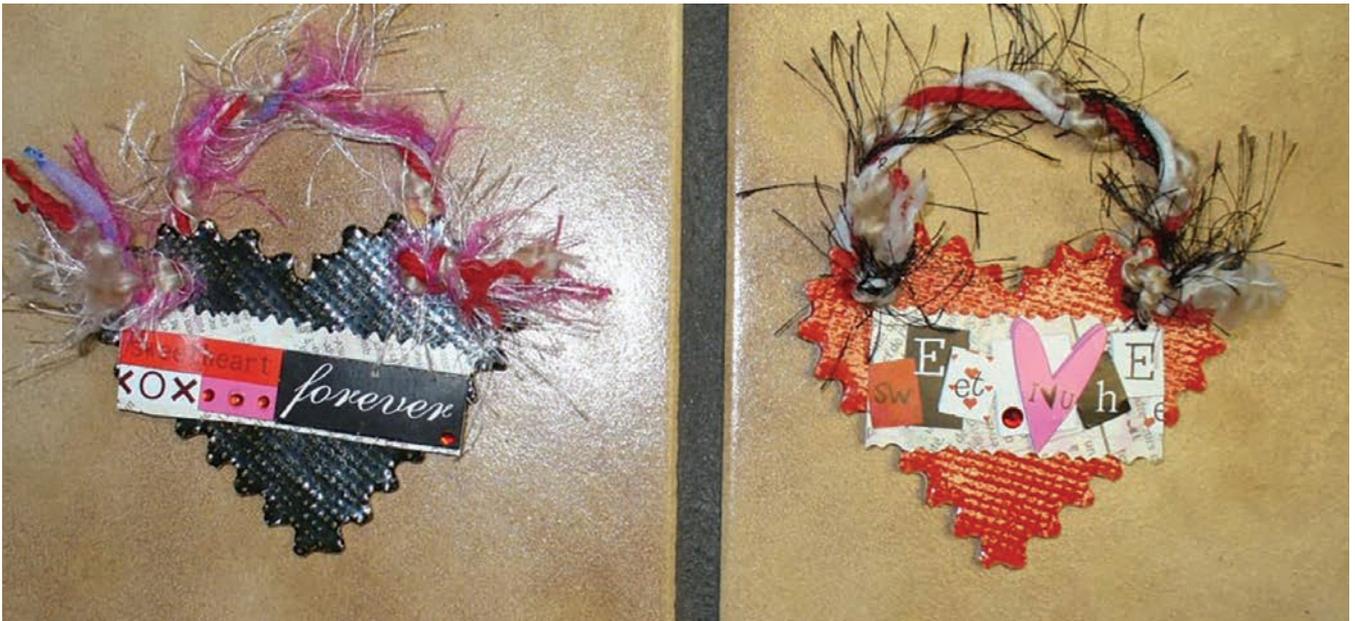
The Foundation Committee met February 12. The majority of the meeting focused on the Foundation accounts. There have been some discrepancies on some of the accounts since CRS has been doing HGMD accounting. After a meeting with CRS and the assistance of board members I believe it has been resolved.

The next meeting will be March 12 at 1:00 and we hope to have a presentation by Trimlight demonstrating the lighting project they proposed last Fall.

Recent donations to the Foundation:
Seville 234
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Submitted by,
Eloise Laubach, Foundation Chair and HGMD Vice President

Hearts created by the HG Creative Clay Class



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At the Rendezvous, Wednesday Afternoons are Far from Trivial

“What mighty contests rise from trivial things.”
--Alexander Pope

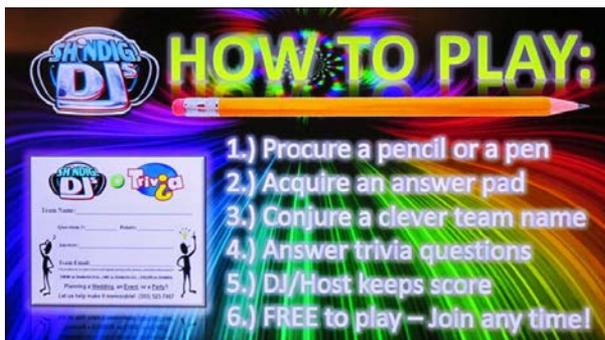
By late afternoon on a winter Wednesday, the sun dips below the Front Range foothills. Soon the glow of daylight fades and darkness descends. It's the end of the day. At Heather Gardens' Rendezvous Bar and Grill, though, 5 p.m. means Trivia Night is just getting started.

One accepted meaning of the word trivia is “unimportant matters.” Each team assembled in the Rendezvous for Trivia Night, though, would dispute that definition. For them, answering trivia questions correctly is of great consequence indeed.

Trivia Night was first held in fall 2024 and quickly gained an enthusiastic following. Well before the game begins, restaurant tables are full of residents who have formed teams—some with five or more members, but some with only two—that compete against one another. They answer an assortment of questions, which range from music to geography to history to pop culture and more. Top teams are awarded Rendezvous gift cards. Far more important to the winners, though, is knowing that you and your teammates have, at least on this particular Wednesday, outsmarted your rivals in a contentious battle of the wits.

How the game works

Trivia Night features an emcee from Shindig DJs, stationed in the corner, who controls the display of questions and answers on the restaurant's two big monitors, as well as on the smaller one over the bar. The emcee also reads everything aloud, and can clarify any points of confusion raised by participants.



Simple rules make the trivia game easy to play.

The rules for the contest appear as the first “How to Play” slide that displays on the monitors. Each question has a time limit to submit answers, which are written on an answer sheet. A team “scribe” writes their team's name, the question number, and—

after team discussion—the question answer on the sheet. They then detach that sheet from the pad, and walk it up to the emcee at the front of the room. The emcee tallies correct answer scores, and keeps a running total of team scores over the course of the contest.

“The question's easy if you know the answer,” the saying goes. Trivia Night participants will tell you that many of the questions and puzzles displayed on the monitors aren't easily solved. That's by design.

About Shindig DJs and Trivia Night questions

David Smith operates Shindig Entertainment, (<https://www.myshindigdjs.com>) which offers “mobile entertainment” services for weddings and parties and corporate events. In addition, the company's Shindig DJs team emcees trivia games at different venues. Smith enjoys hosting Trivia Night at the Rendezvous, so he's usually the one up in front running the show.



Emcee David Smith presents a Colorado-themed question

Smith, a Colorado native, has emceed trivia games at different venues for years. He's explored the possibility of using “prepackaged” trivia programs from third-party vendors, but he prefers creating his own custom games that have a more regional flair.

“I create everything on a really elaborate PowerPoint and save a bare bones version of it, then go in and add the pictures,” Smith says. “Each game takes about six hours to create . . . everything's made and curated and cultivated here in colorful Colorado!”

Smith gets his trivia questions and answers from different sources. “If an interesting topic or tidbit comes up, I'll text myself [as a reminder],” he says, and then follows up to create a new “slide” for the game. He also watches shows like Cash Cab or Jeopardy! for inspiration, but he's careful to restructure and rephrase any questions and answers he might use.

Smith and his DJ team also ensure that questions from one game don't appear in another. “Every now and again I'll reuse a question,” Smith explains, “but I make sure it's from five years ago, and even then I'll change the question around a little bit so [participants] are getting something fresh.”

see page 19



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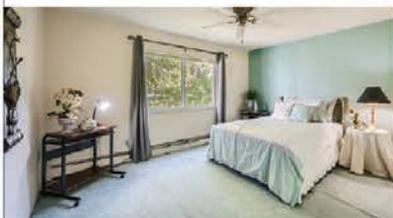
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On this Wednesday, Trivia Night drew a big crowd.

The trivia game is divided into four quarters, with five questions posed per quarter. “The first four questions of each quarter, you’re earning and accumulating points,” Smith explains. “The fifth question, questions 5, 10, 15, and 20, the risk factor goes up. You can bet more points, but you can lose more points . . . those [questions] can be game-changers!” he laughs.

Even though the theme of the game is “trivia,” many questions take a bit of brain work to solve. For example, a “famous quote” question might require you to fill in missing letters or words. The answer to the “Before & After” question below is “blended” (the last word of the BEFORE answer is the first word of the AFTER answer):

1. BEFORE: Colorado’s official state song by John Denver? (Answer: “Rocky Mountain High”)
2. AFTER: 1973 Spaghetti-Western film starring Clint Eastwood? (Answer: “High Plains Drifter.”)

Trivia aficionados at the Rendezvous skew a bit older than those at a neighborhood pub, so many teams answer correctly “classic rock” and “famous movie quotes” and history questions. But Trivia Night offers many questions and puzzles geared towards a younger audience too. The emcee might play a music selection from a contemporary artist, for example. Teams that correctly answer those kinds of questions soon separate themselves as contest leaders.

How Trivia Night was selected

Choosing entertainment for the Rendezvous is a duty that falls to Heather Gardens’ Restaurant Committee. Crystal Guise—who, with colleagues Gary Goodspeed and Kevin Keator, selected bands and music for Friday night entertainment—played a lead role in evaluating certain “bar games” that would work well in the restaurant, especially during the colder months. Crystal first heard about Shindig DJs, and David Smith, from her daughter-in-law. Smith was emceeing a trivia game at Noonan’s, a popular Aurora sports bar, so Guise went there to watch Smith in action.

“We went there and took a look at it, and said ‘this might work,’” Guise recalls. She discussed starting a Trivia Night with Cormac Ronan, restaurant manager,

and other members of the Restaurant Committee. “We thought trivia would be a good fit,” Guise says. “It’s going over really well.”

Shindig DJs’ David Smith conducted the first Trivia Night at the Rendezvous in October 2024. Flyers



Crystal Guise (second from right) and husband John (second from left) with the Building 217 team

were posted and announcements sent, but after the initial game was held, word of mouth from participants was the best advertising for the new Wednesday event.

“We started out with something like nine teams, but we’ve had 12 teams,” Guise says, noting that the makeup of different teams changes from week to week. There is no limit to the number of members on a team, and people who show up by themselves are heartily welcomed by established teams to pull up a chair and join them for the game.

Emcee Smith appreciated the enthusiasm in the room. “He really liked Heather Gardens,” Guise says of the first Wednesday night trivia events. “He liked the crowd, how many tables we had.”

Early on, Guise surveyed Trivia Night participants to get their reactions to the contests. Some noted that certain questions, especially those that ask teams to identify popular songs or movies, “aren’t geared to us,” meaning the 55+ demographic. But most player feedback praises the social aspect of getting together with friends and neighbors. “It’s just fun!” was the response from many players.

see p. 20

IN MEMORIAM



Josie Buytas B210
Randy Stites NTH

from p. 19

While Trivia Night attendance varies from one Wednesday to the next, those involved in selecting Shindig DJs consider the event a hit. Feel like testing your general knowledge? Make a mid-week trip to the Rendezvous. If you come with friends, find a table for your team. If you come alone, another team will be happy to include you. Sit down, order something from the kitchen, and settle in. Enjoy the atmosphere of friendly competition. And if you don't know the answer to a question, you'll still learn something new!



On this occasion, a two-man team emerged victorious.

Trivia Night at the Rendezvous is scheduled to run from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays through April 30.

-Bill Kaluza, B232

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Photos by Janis Farrell

Regarding the Joint Board Work/Study Sessions:

Mutual respect and appreciation go to all the directors of both the Heather Gardens Association (HGA) and the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) boards as we work jointly to develop a mutually beneficial arrangement that will serve the best long-term interests of our Heather Gardens (HG) community.

Our collective dedication, efforts, and unwavering commitment are the driving forces behind creating a new document that defines the roles and responsibilities of each entity and our staff in a way that is legal, comprehensive, durable, and fair.

Photo by Janis Farrell

During our third joint board work/study session on February 10th, the goals we discussed highlighted our commitment to producing a document that benefits all the residents of HG. By collaborating with these goals in mind, we ensure that the needs and well-being of our community remain paramount. As members of the board of directors and residents of HG, what benefits you also benefits us.



We acknowledge that this process is taking more time than any of us anticipated, but we are committed to approaching perfection. We do not want to simply put a temporary fix on important issues; we aim to create a robust and lasting solution that truly addresses the community's needs.

Residents of HG, if you have any thoughts or suggestions as we work to develop a new contractual relationship between HGA and HGMD, please do not hesitate to reach out to any board member or attend either of the boards' monthly meetings. Your voice is important, and we want to ensure it is heard as we proceed.

-The Directors of HGA and HGMD

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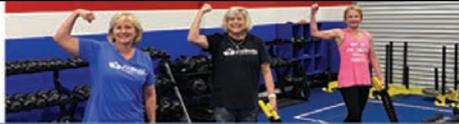
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<https://www.botanicgardens.org>
1007 York Street

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Friday, March 7

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

Longmont Museum

Saturday, March 8

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

Plains Conservation Center

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303-326-8380, 10am-3pm
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SOLD – 14390 E. Marina Dr. #602

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Boards and Committees Monthly Meetings

SEC (BR/Zoom) – 1pm Mon, Mar 3

CECC (BR/Zoom) – 11am Tues, Mar 4

Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am Wed, Mar 5

RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 1pm Mon, Mar 10

Maintenance (Zoom) – 11am Tues, Mar 11

Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Mar 11

Civic Affairs (BR/Zoom) - 11am Wed, Mar 12

Foundation Committee (BR/Zoom) - 1pm Wed, Mar 12

Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3pm, Thurs, Mar 13

Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Fri, Mar 14

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

HGMD Audit/Finance (BR/Zoom) – TBD

HGA Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Tues, Mar 18

Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am Wed, Mar 19

Open Forum (BR/Zoom) - 3pm Wed, Mar 19

ACC (Zoom) – 10am Thu, Mar 20

HGMD Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Thu, Mar 20

Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Mar 25

Resident Orientation (BR/Zoom) – 10am Wed, Mar 26

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

Heather 'n Yon Deadline: 3/17

SUBMIT TO:

bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com

Aurora Townhall Meeting with Angela Lawson

Saturday, March 22, 10-11:30am
Rendezvous Banquet Room

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Letters

Heather 'n Yon,

Once a week in January, resident Dr. Mitch Albert was the facilitator of a Lifelong Learners course about the HG Water Consumption Study he is leading. As the chair of an ad-hoc water committee that was commissioned in 2023 to review water consumption, problems, and costs- and-use findings for the HGA Board of Directors, Mitch got me and the other students interested in the possibilities of cutting substantially high costs through water conservation.

With a university education, Minerals Appraiser Certificate, and dealing with minerals issues for 45 years, Mitch became dedicated to the project. As an HG resident, I assumed we have plenty of water available for all aspects of life and never thought of how it arrived, the costs, and where it goes after use. I did think it must take a lot of water to keep the golf course, ponds, pools, and landscape so well hydrated. The classes taught by Mitch introduced me to the fact HG consumes 120-130 million gallons of water per year at a cost of roughly \$1.15 million and increasing. There are 55 meters providing Aurora water for residential usage. HG Metro District owns water rights for the ponds and well water for the golf course; however, it also provides a pump, pipe, and electricity for distribution of the water.

A group of residents has decided to help get the word out about the possibility of working with Aurora Waterwise to conserve the amount of water used, and therefore cut the annual cost. Information distributed about the HG Talking Water projects and the same course taught by Mitch this coming spring will be based on factual information and you won't regret participating. Sign up! Thanks to Mitch's expertise, all HG residents can participate

in water conservation and save money at the same time.

-Gwen Alexander, B215

Heather 'n Yon,

One Club is The HG Optimist Club. People in the Club are genuinely optimistic, welcoming, friendly and volunteer their time giving back to the community. The club has several projects and fund raisers with 100% given to children's organizations. Our current fundraiser is an All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast for \$10, Saturday March 22, from 8:00 – 10:00 in the Rendezvous Restaurant. Proceeds go to Cops Against Cancer for Children. We work on many projects. One is volunteering at the Del Mar Academy. We read with the children, deliver food provided by SECOR the children take home on the weekend, etc. We sponsor a Junior Optimist Club. The kids in the JOI meet bi-weekly with sponsors from the Club. They chose projects to work on and learn to give back to their classmates and community.

You could volunteer at a pancake breakfast, food drive, Angel Tree, Root Beer Float sale, which benefits the Optimist Junior Golf League, or other fundraisers. We are sponsoring a Spring Fashion Show in May.

We participate in essay and oratorical projects, and a Brain Bowl. These projects help the children prepare themselves for a better future. One of the best feelings in the world is seeing a child smile and know they feel better about themselves. The Optimist Club meets the first and third Thursday of every month in the Rendezvous Event Room. Continental breakfast at 8:30. Meeting starts at 9:00. We have speakers on various topics. Attending could change your life in an OPTIMISTIC way.
-Sue Brandreth, CP3

Heather 'n Yon,

We wanted to express our appreciation to yoga instructor Pamela Whitmore for her efforts during what can only be described as a perfect storm of issues the community faced as we approached the winter class sign-ups. With no Clubhouse Manager due to political squabbles, no Assistant Manager due to a leave of absence, and the loss of two invaluable long-time instructors, there was a huge void to fill for exercise class offerings.

Pamela stepped in to significantly expand the Yin Yoga class and, at the last minute, added a very large Chair Yoga class. She helped partially fill a substantial void in exercise class offering this session, which is vital for our active community.

As we look forward to welcoming the new Clubhouse Manager, we all hope to rebuild the class and clubhouse offerings that we have become accustomed to here at HG. I am confident we will soon return to enjoying the high level of amenities we cherish.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to all the Activity Desk staff who have had a rough ride over the past several months. Your

see p. 35

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

Please submit letters to:
bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com
Subject line: Letter for HnY

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

Word Limit: 300

Thank you!

MARCH CALENDAR

Sat 1	Mexican Train Dominoes (every Sat) Ping Pong (every Sat) Karaoke Club	Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	12-3pm 2pm 3-5pm
Sun 2	Social Bridge (every Sun)	Skyview Room	1-3:30pm
Mon 3	Men's Bridge (every Mon) Book Club Spanish Club (every Mon) Texas Hold'em Mah Jongg (every Mon)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room & Library Aspen Room Aspen Room Blue Spruce Room	10am-2pm 10:30am & 1pm 11am 12:30-5pm 1-4pm
Tue 4	CP2 Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues) Heather Gardens Singers (every Tues) Mah Jongg (every Tues) Ping Pong (every Tues) Billiards Club (every Tues)	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Mountain View Room Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Billiard Room	TBA 12:00-4pm 1-2:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 6:30pm
Wed 5	Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Rummikub (every Wed) Woodshop Club CP1 Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	Sunburst Café Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Lodgepole Lounge Skyview Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Sandberg Auditorium	12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1-3pm 1pm 5:30pm 7-9pm
Thu 6	Tai Chi (every Thurs) TOPS (every Thurs) Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs) Bowling League (every Thurs) The Green Team Time4Tap (every Thurs) Bunko (1st & 3rd Thurs) Social Bridge (every Thurs) Writers Club (every Thurs) Ping Pong (every Thurs) Meditation Club (every Thurs) Kiwanis Club of Aurora Men's Billiards (every Thurs)	Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Rendezvous Bar & Grill Arapahoe Bowling Center Aspen Room Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Skyview Room Game Room Skyview Room Skyview Room Billiards Room	8-11am 8:30-9:30am 9am 10am 10am 11am-12pm 1-3:30pm 1-3:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 4pm 6pm 7pm
Fri 7	Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri) Texas Hold'em	Skyview Room Mountain View Room	10-11am 12:30-5pm



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Sat 8	The Breakfast Club Voice for Residents Forum	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Sandberg Auditorium	8:30am 3-4:30pm
Mon 10	Texas Hold'em (2nd, 3rd and 4th Mon) HG Water Conservation Taskforce (2nd & 4th Mon)	Mountain View Room Zoom	12:30-5pm 2pm
Wed 12	B201 and B202 Red Hattitudes Aviation Club	TBA Rendezvous Bar & Grill Aspen Room	TBA 12:30pm 7pm
Thu 13	RV Lot Club	Aspen Room	5-6pm
Fri 14	Indivisible HG AARP Smart Driver Class	Library HG Clubhouse	11:30am-12:50pm 12:45pm-5pm
Sat 15	Wine & Cheese Club	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	3-5pm
Mon 17	Photo Club	Aspen Room	3-5pm
Tue 18	Caregivers Support Group	Aspen Room	2-4pm
Wed 19	Ladies Golf Annual Membership Meeting Frolics: "Rainbows, Pots O'Gold, and All Things Happy"	Sandberg Auditorium Rendezvous Bar & Grill	1-3pm 4pm
Thu 20	Social Justice Discussion Kiwans Club of Aurora	Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room	10am-12pm 6pm
Fri 21	HG Craft Fair	Sandberg Auditorium	9am-3pm
Sat 22	Optimist Club Pancake Breakfast HG Craft Fair National Federation of the Blind	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Sandberg Auditorium Mountain View Room	8-10am 9am-3pm 10:30am-12:30pm
Mon 24	SRA Low Vision Support Group	TBA Aspen Room	TBA 1:30pm
Tue 25	Republican Club HG Democrats Sevillians	Sandberg Auditorium Sandberg Auditorium Rendezvous Bar & Grill	1:30-3pm 4-5:30pm 4:30pm
Mon 31	Garden Club	Blue Spruce Room	6-7:30pm

See page 38 for more information on Clubs and Recreation

Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, March 3: Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday by appt.), Arts & Crafts Room, 9am-12pm (see ad p. 63)
 Tues, March 11: Renewal by Anderson Lunch, Rendezvous Bar & Grill, 11am (see ad p. 9)
 Sat, March 29: Social Security Seminar, Aspen Room, 10:30am (see ad p. 20)

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Letters

resilience and commitment during these challenging times have been commendable. Thank you for hanging in there and supporting the community.

-Glenn and Carol Riggs, B216

Heather 'n Yon,

I am the AR of Bldg 204 and have a concern about the abuse of the Recycling Bins and enclosure on Cornell Way. As responsible HG Residents, whom I believe are well educated, I would expect the posted signs and instructions to be followed. But, for the 6 years we have been here, I have seen all types of disgarded items that are not recyclable i.e. TVs, entertainment centers, end tables, head and foot boards, and various metal pieces that don't fit in the bins. The attached pictures are what I found today.

I added 3 broken down boxes and there wasn't much room, mostly due to several large boxes not broken down. Another example of a posted sign being ignored. If I didn't have my dog with me, I would have pulled them out and broke them down myself. I've done this in the past, and one time another concerned resident walking past offered to help.

This is an appeal to help our Community and environment by paying attention to the posted signs. And, to avoid charges to our Buildings, resist the devil on your shoulder saying, "who's going to know", or "it's easier and won't hurt anyone". Think of me as the angel on your other shoulder, if that helps.

-Karen Beddia, B204

Heather 'n Yon,

I've lived here 4 1/2 years and had two plumbing problems solved by the great maintenance department here, done by Enrique. What an asset to HG! First one, sink disposal started leaking big time, even with water turned off, because of backup in building. Had to keep emptying a big pot underneath

the disposal every hour. Enrique came and cleared the building's backup which eliminated the overflow into my drain, and came the next day with new disposal. I was pleasantly surprised at the \$55 labor charge, and disposal was more than fairly priced as well. I checked big box stores. Second problem just now, sink faucet blew up, luckily while I was home. First thing, turn off water under sink. Called...Enrique shows up. I upgraded to 21st century faucet and it's beautiful. Look at Lowe's for faucet installation, LABOR to install \$219.00. HG...the same \$55.00. And Enrique went above and beyond the call of duty by a problem that arose. Thank you kind sir. You are a valuable asset to HG! Sincerely,
-Harry Errickson, B217

Heather 'n Yon,

A Big Thank You to All Who Attended the January Sevillians Dinner and to the Staff at Rendezvous Bar & Grill. That was quite a turn out for the first Sevillians Dinner in 2025. Thank you to everyone for coming, and a big shout out to the servers at the Rendezvous who were very efficient, and of course, the food was delicious.

We will continue to have the Sevillians Dinner on the fourth Tuesday of each month, the next one being Tuesday, February 25th at 4:30 to 6:30 – I hope you will join us for a fun-filled social gathering where you can get to know your neighbors within Seville, and perhaps gain new friends. I know I did.

-Janet C. Arce, B232

Heather 'n Yon,

It is with a happily pleased heart that I give thanks to Mr. Kelvin O. and the Heather Gardens Maintenance Department! I've had a few issues with a backup in my kitchen sink. I called maintenance at 8:30am this morning and Kelvin was knocking on my door before 9:30am. He immediately identified the problem and went to work! He explained to me how my unit

and my next door neighbor's unit is conjoined, thus the backup took place. I learned a lesson that I will enthusiastically share with my neighbor. Working together, we will try to make our maintenance workers' job a bit easier! Thank you, not only to the HG Maintenance Department, but most importantly, to Kelvin O.

-Myria (Myra) Giles, B231

Heather 'n Yon,

I have been a resident for two years now and have brought my desire to support recycling efforts and improvement of the environment with me. I found kindred spirits with my Green Team membership which precisely fits that bill.

As a homeowner I practiced water conservation, and now as a condo owner, I wondered if there was something more I could do here. So, when I saw the Lifelong Learners class on Heather Gardens Water Consumption facilitated by Mitch Albert, I jumped right on it. It was a truly fascinating class.

Mitch offered his expertise and thoughts on cost saving efforts Heather Gardens could consider that encompassed landscape irrigation, water collection/diversion, native grasses, personal water use saving measures and so much more.

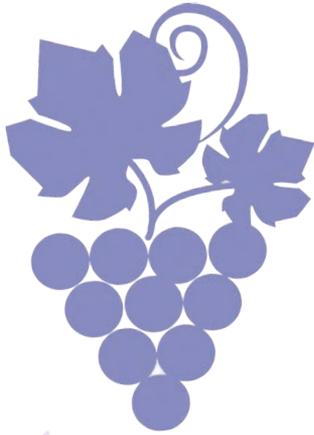
One might wonder, what could I possibly do to help our community save money as water prices continue to go up. I say to you TOILETS! I expect you will be seeing information to this effect in the coming months, because more people than just me are getting excited about a rather simple step to saving water. Check your toilets. How many gallons does your tank use for a flush? Newer efficiency toilets use 1.6 gallons, while old versions use 6-7 gallons a flush.

How old is your toilet? If you've had it forever, it's likely you are flushing a lot of water away! Also, check for leaks from the tank into the bowl. All you need is a dye tablet in the tank and wait 30 min. or so to see if your

see p. 47

Wine Dinner

at
Rendezvous
Bar & Grill





Photos by Janis Farrell



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Aviation Club

Aviation Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Aspen Room. Programs vary each month, featuring different videos and aircraft. This club is for anyone interested in aircraft and aviation. You do NOT have to be: a pilot, veteran, or plane owner — just someone who has a keen interest in airplanes and things that fly. We cancelled our Feb. program due to FRIGID temps and possible blizzard. So, now we are rescheduling the SR-72 program for March 12.

After vague rumors last summer when Top Maverick finally came out ... it featured Tom Cruise as a test pilot for the Navy's new Hypersonic 'Dark Star' project. The opening scenes were rather dramatic, got our interest but no one was sure that there really was a 'Dark Star' or not. The predecessor SR-71 was an Air Force project, not Navy as neither the SR-71 nor a SR-72 were destined to be launched from an Aircraft Carrier, so things have been a little confusing, skeptical and subject to all kinds of rumors... well it's finally OUT ... the U.S. Gov't has a Dark Star project and it's stunning! -Rudy Morris, 303-506-8070, rudymorris4@gmail.com

Book Club

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

B201 and B202

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

The Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club (TBC) for Singles 50 Plus meets at 8:30 am on the second Saturday

in Rendezvous Bar & Grill for breakfast. Call 303-794-3332 to make your reservation. Cost is \$20. TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it has three other chapters along the Front Range. We have ongoing activities, such as bowling, the Birthday Bash, eating at a new restaurant, and Happy Hour. Each month, there are also different activities planned, such as museums, sports events, plays, concerts, and day trips, to name a few. Come see! — Suzanne Harnes

CP1

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

CP2

We meet the first Tuesday of the month in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms from 5-8pm in February & October. These are BYOB drinks and a dish to share events. In April, August and December, we will be meeting in Rendezvous Bar & Grill from 4:30-8pm. Drinks and food, as well as tax & trip are at your own expense.

In June, we will be meeting in the Picnic Pavillion from 5:30-8pm. Brauts and chips, plates, cups, napkins and utensils will be provided. (Voluntary donations accepted for these items). BYOB drinks and a dish to share. If you have any questions, please contact Jake Flint, AR Representative for CP2. 303-845-0541.

CP4

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

Caregivers Support Group

The HG Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of the

month in the Aspen Room from 2-4 pm. All caregivers are welcome. Questions? Call Nancy Fuhr at 303-337-4890.

Democrats/HG

The Heather Gardens Democratic Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) in the clubhouse auditorium at 4-5:30 pm. Our next meeting is Tuesday, March 25. The purpose of our club is to support the Constitution, the rule of law, and GOOD GOVERNMENT. This year our speakers will feature various groups providing opportunities for citizen engagement and ACTIONS TO TAKE, with our shared goal of preserving our democracy. Often, speakers for current "hot topics" cannot be confirmed in time for this announcement. I send an email newsletter a few days before our meeting, so please email me if you want to get on my list: hgdemocrats@gmail.com. You don't have to live in Heather Gardens nor be registered as a Democrat to attend our meetings. Some of us like to socialize over dinner in the Rendezvous after the meeting, and you are welcome to join us. There is no charge for our meetings. - Marty Karnopp, Chair

Frolics

Please come enjoy the free entertainment provided by the Frolics Club Traveling Troupe at the Rendezvous Restaurant on Wednesday, March 19 at 4 p.m. — "Rainbows, Pots O'Gold, and All Things Happy!" Check out the free Makeup Workshop (for Members Only) on Saturday, March 15, 2-4 pm, in Aspen/Blue Spruce. RSVP required. Become a member for \$12 and come to this fun workshop taught by Jan Woods. Contact Arlene Krell to reserve your space at the Makeup Workshop — 720.284.9774.

Garden Club

It's getting close to spring and Garden Club members are

beginning to think about the latest trends in gardening. These trends include pollinator gardens, sustainable gardening, vertical gardens, and more. HG gardeners are aware that it's important to provide food and habitat for pollinators with native plants, especially because of the roles they play in the ecosystem. We'll be talking about that and exchanging other gardening tips at our first 2025 meeting from 6 to 7:30 pm on March 31 in the Blue Spruce Room. All gardeners are welcome to join us.

The Garden Club meets the last Monday of each month March through October and also hosts several garden walk-arounds for members and visitors throughout the growing season. For information about leasing a garden plot, joining the club, or being added to the email notification list, call or text President Nancy Linsenbiger at 720-932-6990.

The Green Team

The Green Team meets on the first Thursday of every month at 10 am in the Aspen room. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I respond faster by text. -Wendy Pfaffhausen, 303-587-9797.

Over 400 dogs reside in Heather Gardens and 290 of them are members of the Puppy Poop Project (PPP). It's not a fraternity or sorority. But it is a special group their owners subscribe to. The monthly meeting is in the Clubhouse on the last Friday where compostable bags are distributed FREE with the understanding that once filled with puppy waste these special bags will be discarded ONLY in the 26 large PPP bins located throughout HG. The bins are designated ONLY for these compostable bags. If you are a member, PLEASE don't throw these bags anywhere else, especially down a trash shoot. The filled bags are collected for composting. So don't be lazy. It defeats the purpose if you don't dispose of them properly. Are you a dog owner and not a member of the Puppy Poop Project? Please

contact us at (720)774-3368, we would enjoy having you join in our effort. -W. Pfaffhausen

Heather Gardens Singers

If you like to have fun and enjoy singing, please join us. The group meets on Tuesdays in the Skyview room from 1-2:30 pm. We are off to a great start of this new year with our music director, Joyce Culwell. We are also looking for an accompanist so Joyce does not have to play and direct. Interested in joining or for more details call Tom Kappel 720 377-5756.

Heather Gardens Water Conservation Taskforce

The Heather Gardens Water Conservation Taskforce (HG-WCT) was formed end of January 2025 after four "Lifelong Learners" lectures, where Mitch Albert presented his HG Water Consumption Study. The purpose of the newly formed taskforce is to work on implementing the recommendations mentioned in the study to conserve the usage of (city) water in Heather Gardens (HG) for environmental and sustainability reasons and to substantially lower our HG water/sewer bill. The activities of the taskforce will primarily focus on developing and implementing business plans by each of HG's 54 water meters with their associated building(s) or Country Place and Townhouse (CP/TH) area(s) to reduce water usage for irrigation and personal usage.

These business plans will be based on garden space design and implementation in specific areas in close cooperation with residents and garden committees of the buildings or CP/TH areas. The garden space designs will be integrated with smart irrigation systems to reduce water usage. The taskforce will also work on the reduction of personal water usage by developing and implementing (voluntary) exchange programs of conventional toilets with low-flow toilets greater than 1.28 gpf per HG maintenance. The focus will be to identify any primary toilets per unit that are still greater than 4.5 gpf.

All Taskforce business plans will work with and be guided by the existing HG Water Conservation Committee for content, planning standards and submissions to the HGA board. The Water Conservation Taskforce has just started its work. We are looking for residents who are members of building or CP/TH area garden committees and for residents just interested in helping to reduce water usage in HG. We are meeting on Zoom the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 2 pm. Please contact us by reaching out to Mitch Albert (mitch55albert@gmail.com).

Indivisible/HG

Heather Gardens Indivisible meets the 2nd Friday of each month, 11:30 am – 12:50 pm, in the HG Library (Media Room). You are welcome to join us for lunch afterward at Rendezvous. March 14 PRESENTATION: Randy Willard from Save the Aurora Reservoir (SAVE) will share the work of this citizen generated group to respond to intended fracking through Arapahoe County, Indivisible members have been actively testifying to insist on safety and accountability measures.

Connected to over 1,200 groups nationwide, Heather Gardens Indivisible is a community of neighbors who choose to make a difference in the world, addressing the many problems we see with positive, forward-thinking actions. We address issues that concern us, such as wealth inequality, racial injustice, environmental threats, women's reproductive rights, gun safety, etc., with both education and action. Although people of any political affiliation are welcome, our approach is progressive.

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

Karaoke Club

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

Kiwanis Club of Aurora

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

Lifelong Learners

We are wrapping up our winter classes and are looking ahead to spring registration. Details to be available soon. Hopefully you will find a class that sparks your interest and curiosity. Per an article by Tina Grosso in the *Journal of Educational Leadership in Action*, "The common idea 'you can't teach an old dog new tricks' is simply false, as older adults are both eager to learn and have the capacity to so do." In early April, Lifelong Learners will be hosting an open house to celebrate our 1-year anniversary! Date, Time and Location - coming soon. Join us and meet our committee members, facilitators and your neighbors who have attended classes and want to share their experiences. If you have any questions, contact us at heathergardenslearners@gmail.com.

Low Vision Support Group

Low Vision Support Group meets on March 24 (fourth Monday of the month) in the Aspen Room, 1:30 pm. Questions? Call Marsha Bengen, 720-535-5224

Meditation Club

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

Men with Purpose

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

National Federation of the Blind, Aurora Chapter

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

Optimist Club

The club meets on 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month for breakfast in Rendezvous Bar & Grill, 9 am. A continental breakfast buffet is served, \$10 per person. Optimist Clubs are dedicated to "bringing out the best in kids" through various service projects. We welcome anyone interested in finding out more. Contact Darlene Park, 303-798-5088, or Bob Schlageter, 303-751-2205, with questions.

Photo Club

We meet on the third Monday, 3-5 pm, Aspen Room. Come to our March 17 meeting! And as with the Feb. program, find some old family photos, scan them into digital format using your home printer ... most 'All in ONE' type printers can copy & scan a photo at 300 DPI

and many in advanced mode can scan at 600 DPI as well. Scan a couple and put them on a jump drive and we'll work on your photos (as time allows). We meet once a month and go over the methods or design used to create photos. Contact Rudy Morris, 303-506-8070, rudymorris4@gmail.com

Red Hattitudes

Ladies, if you are looking to have lunch with a bunch of fun-loving gals at the Rendezvous Bar & Grill, join the Red Hattitudes on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 pm. The Red Hats are a non-political, non-sectarian, group of ladies who like to wear purple outfits with a red hat or fascinator. Please call Janet Arce for more details at (720) 774-3368.

Republican Club

TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. GENERAL MEETING: THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND CURRENT EVENTS: Please join us for an engaging presentation and discussion of current headline news and how the U.S. Constitution applies to these events. Information about how to access conservative news outlets will also be provided. Mike Thoma, Vice President, will lead the discussion. Save the Date: April 15, 6 – 8 pm. "Knowing and Protecting the Constitution," facilitated by Mike Thoma, HGRC Vice President. The class will touch on how many branches of government there are, which branch has the most power and which one has the least. Also, the class will cover the Bill of Rights with emphasis on specific Amendments and their importance in our daily lives. Anyone interested in participating in the class may sign up at the March 25 meeting for access to the zoom link. We The People Book Club: *Letter to the American Church* by Eric Metaxas. The author of a bestselling biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Eric Metaxas reveals the haunting similarities between today's American Church and the German Church of the 1930s.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Echoing the German martyr's prophetic call, he exhorts his fellow Christians to repent of their silence in the face of evil. This Club begins on Wednesday, March 19 from 4:30 – 5:30 pm in the Clubhouse Lodgepole Room. To participate, contact Robin O'Meara at rlomeara1@gmail.com.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Arapahoe County Republican Party is pleased to announce the election of new officers: John Temple, Chairman, Robin O'Meara, Vice Chairman and Jean Baugh, Secretary. This team, representing Arapahoe 1st, is prepared to move the party forward to a new level of transparency, efficiency and winning elections. Congratulations to all. Annual Membership is \$20. Guests are always welcome.

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 2nd Thursday of each month, 5-6 pm, Aspen Room. Happy trails and safe travels!
-Forrest McClure, 720-472-9250

Sevillians

To all residents of Buildings 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, and 236: The Sevillians have resumed their monthly dinners on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 4:30 pm in the Rendezvous Bar & Grill. Please call Janet Arce at (720) 774-3368 or email: arcej1946@gmail.com if you would like to be placed on the invitation list.

Singles Club/OPOCS

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

Social Justice Discussion

You are invited to the Social Justice, "Unpacking The Society In Which We Live" round table discussion group on Thursday, March 20,

in the Blue Spruce Room. We meet every 3rd Thursday from 10 am -12 noon. We are the group which sponsors the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day, and always welcome people who want to come to our discussions. In March, we will discuss why our group carries its name. Please join us.- Bernie Hupperts: marlynber@gmail.com and Diane Pritchard: dianekpritchard@gmail.com, co-facilitators

Spanish Club (Club en Español)

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

SRA

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

TOPS

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

Voice For Residents Forum

The Voice for Residents Forum is celebrating our first year as a forum for our resident community. We will continue supporting our vision for 2025 by fostering community engagement and communications with our HGA and HGMD boards.

HGA and HGMD boards are always invited to attend our meetings and address current issues. We invite you to attend our next forum on Saturday, March 8th at 3:00-4:30 pm in the auditorium, where we will list and discuss current communications issues from the resident point of view. If you have any questions, you may contact Vickie Hoffman or Marilyn Macdonald at TheVoiceForResidentsForum@gmail.com.

Wine & Cheese Social Club

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

Woodshop Club

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

Writers Club

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

SPORTS & RECREATION

Billiard Club

The Billiard Club meets for Co-ed 8-Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in BEFORE 6:10 pm in order to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 pm on Thursdays. Annual dues of \$12 are payable on Jan. 1 of each year. All new players are welcome. Questions? Call Connie Burns 303-695-0766 or Jimmie Whorton 303-923-3038

8 BALL WINNERS 1/21 – 2/13

Jan. 21:

1st Ditto Schultz/Connie Burns
2nd Brian Bucenec/Margie Sloan
3rd Otis Lawson/Louise Lucero

Jan. 28:

1st Otis Lawson/Linda Gonzalez
2nd Judy Hein/Jack Doherty
3rd Don Gunnarson/Dee Moore

Feb. 4:

1st Otis Lawson/Connie Burns
2nd Roger Goldstein/Dee Moore
3rd Doug Miller/David Worden
9 BALL WINNERS 1/21 – 2/13

Jan. 16:

1st John Manzanares
2nd Jack Doherty
3rd Darrell Schultz

Jan. 23:

1st John Manzanares
2nd Jack Doherty
3rd Darrell Schultz

Jan. 30:

1st Steve Hesser
2nd Roger Goldstein
3rd Scott Crowl

Feb. 6:

1st John Manzanares
2nd Doug Miller
3rd Roger Goldstein

Feb. 13:

1st John Manzanares
2nd Steve Hesser

Bowling League

We bowl on Thursday morning at 10 am at Arapahoe Bowling Center. If interested or have questions call Mary Jo Prichard at 303-929-1241 or email mjpininsurance@hotmail.com.

Bridge/Men's Monday

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

Bridge/Social

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

Bunko

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

Cribbage/Afternoon

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

Duplicate Bridge/ACBL

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

Fun Gals Golf

Are you craving golf? Fun Gals Golf will begin on Thursday, April 3 with WEEKLY tee times at 9 and 9:12 am. Enjoy time with other positive and supportive women, get outdoors, and hit a few golf balls. No handicap required and keeping score is up to you. Lunch together at the Rendezvous afterwards is a likely option. To get involved and ask questions contact Sharon Westmoreland, sharonwestmoreland@me.com or 303.882-2929 (Text). Each time you plan to play, call the pro shop and sign up for a tee time (9 am or 9:12 am).

Golf Club/Ladies

The beginning of the 2025 golf season is just one month away for the Heather Gardens Ladies Golf Club and the board of directors is hard at work creating a schedule and planning weekly tournaments

and social activities for the year. Some dates to add to your calendar include:

March 5: New Member Meeting

March 19: Annual Membership Meeting - Auditorium

March 19: Due date for resident dues

April 2: Preseason play begins (weather permitting); No payouts during April.

May 7: League play begins

As dates for other activities as well as any outside tournaments are added, they will be published in Heather n' Yon and posted on the club's website.

CLUB WEBSITE

All women, regardless of skill level, who are interested in league play are invited to join HGLGC. Learn more about the club and get a membership application at the Heather Gardens Pro Shop and on our website, www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com. The next HGLGC board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 26 at 1:00 p.m. in the boardroom. All members are encouraged to attend. Minutes from all board meetings are posted on the website.

MEET A MEMBER

Mary Kay Rohrer is beginning her first year as board secretary. She has lived at Heather Gardens for 1 ½ years and, being an avid golfer, joined the league the day after she moved in. When board elections were held last fall, she volunteered for the secretary position because she said the work was a good match for her professional background and skill set. Asked what she enjoys most about the league, she said, "This is the friendliest league I have ever played in. I enjoy the competition, the camaraderie and the many social activities."

Golf/Men's

The Heather Gardens Men's Golf Club (HGMGC) will be starting up again in April, but now's the time to submit your application to play in the upcoming season. We

play every Friday (except July 4 this year). In addition to regular tournaments, we also have fun events like Blue, White Red days, Best Ball, 2-man and 4-man scrambles, and this year we're gonna try "greensomes." We will have the occasional shotgun start and we'll even provide food every now and then. We also have a Spring Banquet to open the season and a Fall Banquet to close it out. Pick up your application at the Golf Pro Shop. You may also download the application from Golf League Tracker (GLT) at www.golfleaguetracker.com/glthome/league. Send an email to jon.freyer54@gmail.com for login instructions. The application fee is \$50 and all applications must be turned into the Golf Pro Shop. If you have any questions, please contact the Golf Pro Shop, (303) 751-2390.

Hand (Knee) and Foot

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

Mah Jongg/Monday

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

Mah Jongg/Tuesday

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

Mexican Train Dominoes

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

Pickleball

Our play schedule starts at 10 am primarily on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Please visit <https://www.hgpickle.org> for the latest schedule changes and to find many informative pickleball links. We often have an hour or more scheduled with courts based on level of play. That's in addition to our open play, round robin and ladder play plus dedicating time for drills and instruction to improve our pickleball skills. We are doing our best to offer fun experiences for players of all skill levels. Please contact Phil Hughes at 303-503-7633 or Ron Hileman at 720-256-7477 with feedback, questions or to schedule a free orientation and/or lesson. If you would like to be added to our weekly email updates, let Ron know at ronhileman@gmail.com. We provide loaner paddles and pickleballs for new players interested in experiencing America's fastest growing sport. You can click on HG Wind & Temperature on our website for current weather conditions. We will generally not be playing when the wind gusts are above 15-20 MPH or when the wind chill "feels like" temperature is below freezing.

Ping Pong

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

Poker/Men's & Texas Hold 'em

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

Mountain View Room.

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

Rummikub

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

Square Dance

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

Tai Chi

Experience the ancient art of Tai Chi, a graceful form of exercise that integrates mind, body, and spirit. With slow, controlled movements, Tai Chi promotes relaxation, balance, and flexibility, while reducing stress and improving overall well-being. One of the best ways to learn Tai Chi is the step-by-step approach used by the Heather Gardens Tai Chi Club. Although you can join and start learning at any time during the year, starting at the beginning of the spring season facilitates this step-by-step learning method. The club meets on Thursday mornings on the clubhouse tennis courts. Please contact Dean Uyeno via email at dean.uyeno@live.com prior to your first meeting for information that will help make your first experience enjoyable and productive.

Tennis Club

We will play through April every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 1 pm, weather

permitting. This is a friendly and welcoming group. If you have not played for years or are a bit rusty, that's okay. We welcome all levels, even if you have never played, we provide instruction. So, come join us! For more information, call (303) 587-9797.- Christine McKenney

Time4Tap Dance Group

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

Clubs/Organizations & Sports/Recreation SUBMISSIONS

Email:
Gloria Leshner:
gjlesher@gmail.com

***Monthly Deadline is listed on p. 30**

300 word limit

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

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HG Clubhouse Events

Clubhouse Hours

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

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Acting Clubhouse Manager Julie Racich

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

AARP Smart Driver Class

Friday, March 14th
12:45pm-5pm
Heather Gardens Clubhouse

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. If so, then consider attending the AARP Smart Driver Class here at the Heather Gardens Clubhouse. The class is 4 hours long and the cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members, cash or check only (no credit or debit cards). You can register for the class by calling the clubhouse at (303) 755-0652 x130.

Heather Garden's Annual Spring Craft Fair

Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22
9am – 3pm
Sandberg Auditorium

Drop in, bring your friends, and shop the 80+ craft vendors. Crafters offer a variety of items including pottery, jewelry, greeting cards, glass art, quilts, home décor, baskets, paintings and much more. Homemade baked goods will also be available. Each room in the clubhouse will be filled with items you'll love.

This year you will be greeted by light entertainment around noon time. Enjoy a few tunes while browsing and shopping. There is no admission fee.

Please call 303-755-0652 x5 with any questions.



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COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

Insight into our Water Bill

Water is getting more expensive

This year, each unit is paying \$527 for water and sewer as part of our homeowners' dues. The HGA budget for 2025 allocates \$1,000,524 for these utilities, but based on actual usage trends and current pricing, the costs are more likely to be \$1,345,000. Over the next five years, these costs are expected to rise. But by implementing gradual changes to conserve our personal and irrigation water utilization, the Heather Gardens (HG) water bills could be reduced by \$250,000/yr up to \$500,000/yr every year, starting as early as 2026.



In the "Heather Gardens Water Consumption Study" by HG resident Mitch Albert, and presented during four lectures of the Lifelong Learners program, the expected sharp increase in the water and sewer costs is the result of an aggressive pricing strategy implemented by Aurora's Water Wise program. For 2025, water is priced in two tiers: For Tier-1, up to a specific base utilization, the cost is \$6.22 per 1,000 of water used. Above that base number, we shift into Tier-2 pricing of \$11.58 per 1,000 gal. Additionally, HG pays for sewer based on our water use: In Tier-1 it costs \$11.28 per 1,000 gallons of water used, and Tier-2 the cost becomes \$16.34 per 1,000 gal. In 2024 HG paid \$4,400 for water use in Tier-2. In 2025, if we use the same number of gallons of water in Tier-2, it will cost HG \$40,000. In money saving terms, our water conservation goal should be to stay out of Tier-2 usage as much as possible!

Three areas for water savings in HG

The Heather Gardens Water Consumption Study showed three opportunities for water conservation: Leaks, irrigation and personal usage. Unfortunately, our Maintenance department must fix an average of more than one leak per day. This trend has been consistent for over a year. There are long-term plans to replace and improve the HG plumbing infrastructure. Short-term measures are in the works. Our Maintenance department is in the process of hiring two additional plumbers to increase staff knowledge and expertise, and to reduce the number of leaks by applying preventive maintenance, and fixing issues in a more structural way.

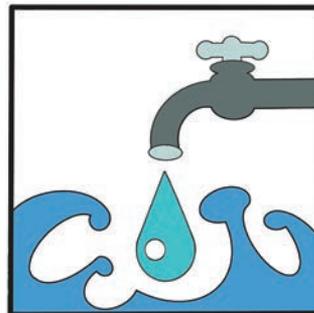
The second area for water savings and thereby cost savings to HG, is our irrigation. Around our residences, all the gardens and grass are irrigated with expensive City water. Water usage can be reduced significantly with more efficient sprinkler heads, "smart" controllers, and soil moisture sensors

or remote weather data inputs. In addition, some of our building and area garden committees are working on projects to install more drought resistant landscaping and grasses. Investments in this area have a predicted payback of two to four years with a 20-40% rate of return.

The golf course is irrigated with water pumped into two ponds from HG's 1,610' well. Most of the water in these ponds is acquired from the well, but free storm water could contribute greatly to our supply. HG well water is not free and has a significant cost related to our pump, but is still less than City water. In this area, there is a lot of room for improvement: by reducing usage of well water, collecting more storm water in the ponds, using water in the three ponds

which are currently not used for irrigation, and by enhancing drainage into the fenced pond within the golf course.

The third area of water savings is our own personal water usage. Reduced individual water usage can be realized by exchanging high volume toilets in our units with low volume toilets. To better estimate the potential savings in this area a survey of 2,426 units is coming. With or without rebates from Aurora City



Water, significant savings with short payback periods can be made.

Next steps and how can you as help and become engaged

Mitch Albert is invited by the Joint Long Term Planning Committee to present the results of his study to both boards and

staff on Wednesday, March 19 at 10am. This meeting is open to the public.

You can also join the group of residents "HG-Water Conservation Taskforce," which began its work in January in two areas: Buildings 217-218 and Buildings 223-224 will develop two separate business plans covering irrigation improvements and water reduction via personal usage of more low-flow toilets. This Task Force will develop business plans using existing templates and will be guided by the ad-hoc HGA Water Conservation Committee whose chair is a certified appraiser for content and planning standards. Garden committees of other buildings and areas are welcome to join the HG-WC Taskforce to learn from and apply their knowledge and experience.

-Community Engagement and Communications Committee / Project Insight



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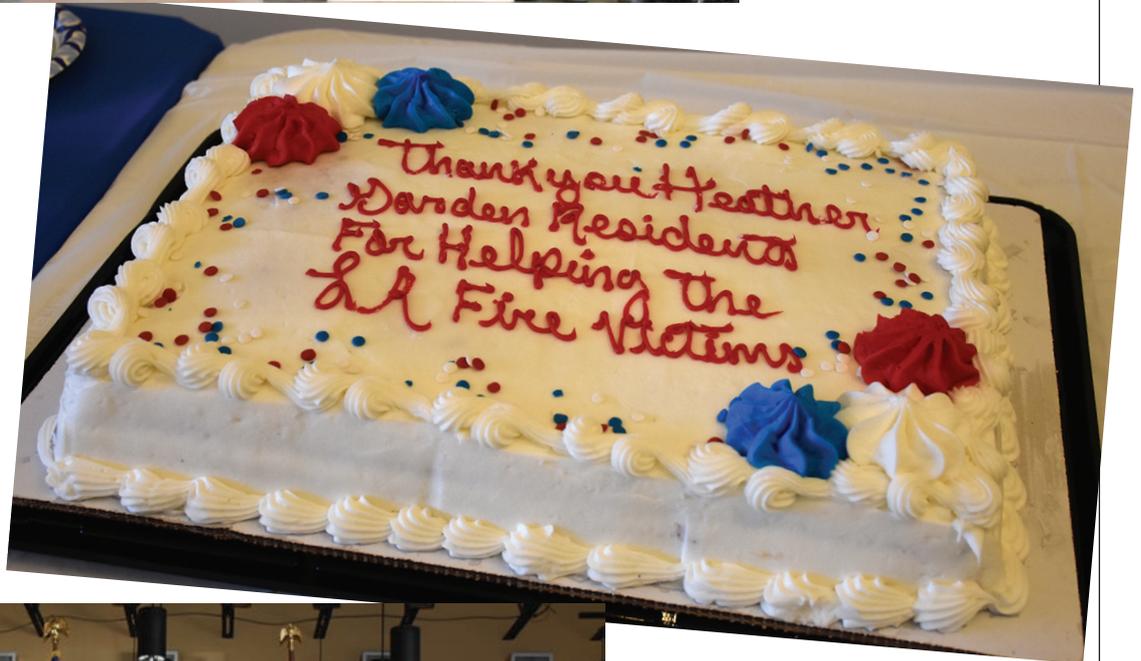


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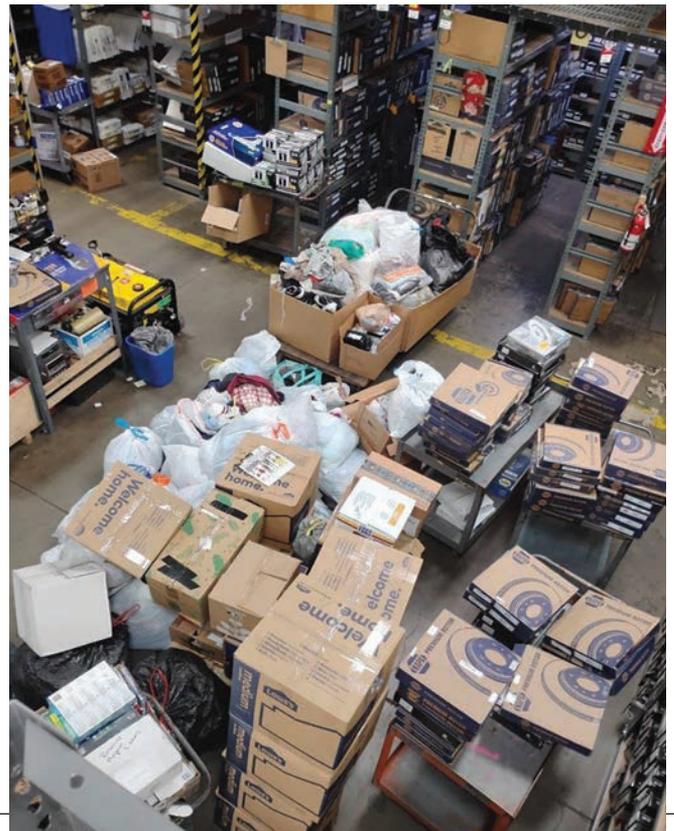
Appreciation Event



At the NAPA Distribution Center in Los Angeles, CA:

Three semi trucks delivered food, water and supplies for distribution to California Fire survivors. All trucks and supplies were from Colorado. Thank you, Heather Gardens residents for your generous donations, along with others in our state.

Photo submitted by Tony Brenning



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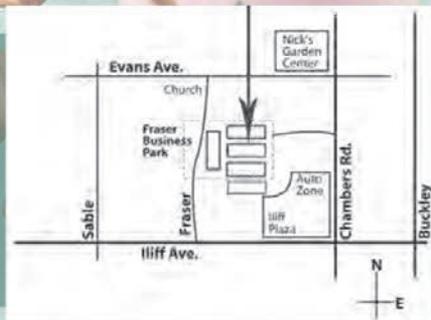
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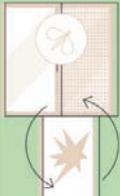
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If you build it, they will come – and criticize

Mary Hafka

A friend is getting married this spring to her boyfriend of two years. There's something sublimely optimistic about embarking on such a new adventure during one's senior years. New chapters, late in life. New step children, as families blend.

She's getting married at St. John the Evangelist Church in Loveland. Her machinations over getting married in the Catholic church, when the groom is a far cry from Catholic, were enlightening.

I would have bet against her getting permission to marry in the church, but I would have been wrong. Apparently, she explained, the Catholic church of today is trying to hang onto the Catholics they already have, so they're being more accommodating than in years past.

Her request to marry in the church was granted. The nuptials are steaming full speed ahead.

This reminded me of another saga, from my teenage years. I was a red-hot Catholic, in those days, bolstered by the cloak of Vatican 2 floating breezily over the shoulders of the devoted.

The mass was now being said in English. Many of the hymns we sang were in English, too – although to this day, I can sing Panis Angelicus, Ave Maria and Adestes Fideles in Latin. Those early childhood lessons cling on.

Around that time, my family moved to a brand new subdivision, on the outskirts of St. Louis County, on property that once was farm land. Houses and shopping centers, with grocery and hardware stores, got built where nothing had been before.

There also was no Catholic church, and the parishioners were drafted to help build one. This mostly took the form of contributing to the building fund. After the usual

weekly envelope was collected, for the regular donation, a second envelope was collected to finance bricks and mortar.

I quickly learned that there's danger in involving the parishioners so closely in erecting a church. Parishioners came to have the funny idea that, since they gave so generously, they should have something to say about the embodiment the church would take.

But they didn't. The new church arrived in the form of architecture selected by someone other than those who would use it. Vatican 2 notwithstanding, the Catholic church of the 60s was not a democratic organization.

After the building was erected, everyone hated it. The architecture was nontraditional and unconventional. According to the sensibilities of the mid-sixties, it didn't even look like a church.

One critic said the building looked like a ski run. Another claimed it resembled a potato chip. The reviews were negative – and merciless.

To me, the building looked like a mighty bulwark. A big, fat concrete bulwark. The archangels might have been with us, but the architectural angel must have been on vacation.

The excitement surrounding building our own, new church deflated like air spurting from a balloon. The congregation exuded a collective, "Ewwwwww!"

The name given the church was strange, too. Christened St. Clara's, the church's title confused me. I remember asking my mother if there even was a St. Clara?

She didn't know either. She suggested it might be a form of St. Clare, but I think she was guessing.

So we fundraisers got saddled with an unpopular design named after a folksy saint. Clara sounded more like the name of one of the area cows than that of a revered church figure.

Today, some PR department official from the diocese would come forth to explain why the design of the

church made sense economically, environmentally and aesthetically. But then, we were expected just to shut up and pray.

We had little choice but to embrace our spanking-new church. We trooped off weekly to sing and pray underneath St. Clara's ski-jump roof. At some point, I think we just got used to it. But I still remember driving into the church parking lot, gazing at the bulky, off-kilter building, and wondering, why did our church have to be so ugly?

I guess the moral of the story is that, in some areas, the Catholic church isn't afraid of change. They make some adjustments, to keep their parishioners from straying to another religion. The mandates they used to strictly enforce seem to be falling, like heavy chunks of cement that resemble the walls of St. Clara's.

In February, I Googled my former church, in Ellisville, Missouri. Two years ago, it celebrated its 60th anniversary. A praise concert was held in the gym, which didn't exist when I attended. Food and drink trucks assembled in the parking lot.

Somewhere along the line, its clunky name was changed to St. Clare of Assisi Church. I guess my mother knew what she was talking about, after all.

As seen in the website photos, much has changed over 60 years. It appears a Catholic school (with gym) has been added to the campus, as well as other improvements.

One of the "improvements" is lots of mature trees now grow around the building's exterior. The church itself doesn't show much in the photographs.

But the alert viewer can just make it out in the background. It still looks like a concrete potato chip. I'm sorry to report no miracle transformation came to pass.

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