

# Heather 'n Von

**August 2024**

**Heather Gardens Community Magazine**

**Vol. 38, No. 6**





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## **HGMD Proposes New Facility Rental Policy, Seeks More Information on Polling Center**

HGMD proposes new facility rental policy, seeks more information on polling center

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) Board of Directors convened its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 18, 2024. All Directors were in attendance: Director Baldwin attended by ZOOM, and the other Directors were present in the Board Room.

Director Taylor introduced a Clubhouse Facility Rental and Event Policy. The policy clarifies how the rental of HGMD facilities will be handled depending on whether the renter and the attendees are residents of Heather Gardens or members of the public and whether the renters charge for admission or concessions.

The proposed policy is available on HGMD's website in the Board packet for the July 18th meeting. The public has 30 days to comment before the policy is adopted. The issue will be on the agenda at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting on August 15, 2024.

In other business, the Board entertained a motion to allow Arapahoe County to use the auditorium as a Voter Service and Polling Center from October 16 to November 6, 2024. Directors Baldwin, Laubach, and Effler expressed concern about using the auditorium for that length of time, as the county's contract prohibits using the room when County personnel are not present to secure the election machines.

"I strongly object to taking over the entire auditorium for that period of time," Laubach said.

Effler agreed. "We can't tie that auditorium up for almost three weeks. You've got church and mass and classes," she said.

The motion was tabled until the County Clerk can provide more information about their parameters for a polling place. Other rooms to be considered include the Arts & Crafts room and the library.

"We'll get more information and find a solution," Director O'Meara said.

Other actions taken by the Board:

... approved a 50% discount for employees for meals purchased at the Rendezvous Bar and Grill between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

... dissolved the Clubs & Activities Committee and moved its responsibilities to the HGMD Clubhouse Committee.

... requested permission from HGA for HGMD Activities Coordinator and HGMD Clubhouse Chair to work directly with the Acting Clubhouse Manager and access ActiveNet to organize Clubhouse events.

... directed staff to fill the water coolers on the tennis courts with ice water

## **HGMD approves costly repair of golf course well pump**

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) Board of Directors amended the agenda for the July 18, 2024, meeting to discuss how to proceed with repairs for a failed well pump on the golf course. The pump is used for irrigation.

Of particular concern is whether the District must follow a public bidding procedure. The procedure is required for municipal districts entering into construction contracts over \$120,000 but not for jobs that are merely replacing parts.

Despite the high cost of replacing the pump, the Directors unanimously agreed that the repair fell under the replacement of parts.

Golf course management has already received a bid from Layne, the company currently servicing the pump. Director Taylor and Director Effler have requested proposals from other companies but have not received any responses. Because of the depth of the well, very few companies are licensed to do this kind of work, Effler said.

In the meantime, the cost of irrigation using city water is \$1,200 per day, Effler said. There is a concern that waiting for additional proposals could cost more in water costs than would be saved with a lower bid.

"How long do we wait to use up the savings if we did get a lower bid?" Taylor asked.

The Board agreed to proceed with Layne, though it will consider other bids if they come in before the contract with Layne is signed.

Because the motion was not on the agenda, the Board had to call an additional meeting to take action. At a meeting on July 19, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.,

see page 6

they unanimously approved the replacement of the golf course well pump for a cost of \$247,050 with a contingency of \$24,705 for a total of \$271,755 to be paid out of the operating account or with lottery funds, if applicable.

Director Taylor explained that there is a long lead time for this repair. Once the pump has been ordered, it will take five to six weeks to receive it, and the golf course will need to be watered during that period. Director O'Meara offered to contact the City of Aurora to ask about recycled or non-potable water resources for watering the golf course instead of using costly city water.

## **Security Office to Stay Within the Clubhouse: Role of Officers in Welfare Checks Is Under Discussion**

The outstanding performance of the Security Team at Heather Gardens and physical location of the Security Office were major topics of discussion at the Heather Gardens Association Board meeting, July 16.

Despite rumors that Security would be moved out of the Clubhouse and even off campus, both the HGA and HGMD boards agreed at their joint Leadership Work Session on July 11 their intent that the primary Security office will continue to be located at the Clubhouse.

At the HGA meeting, Director Bill Gold, Security, Emergency Preparedness Committee, noted that the monthly report from Security Chief Dave Marris indicates that suspicious activity reports are decreasing. That may be due to the increase in miles patrolled by Security, up from around 26,000 year to date 2023 to 36,000 year to date 2024, a significant increase of around 10,000 miles. Additionally, as noted by Director John Recob, recent actions by the City of Aurora to clean up homeless camps around the nearby I-225 Corridor have been positive.

In another Security issue, a sharp increase is being reported in welfare checks, mental health, memory and incapacity issues, and lift assists. Currently, there have been 65 calls already in 2024, contrasted to total of 41 for 2023.

Candice Compton, B220, attending by Zoom as

a guest, stated that HGA Declarations clearly stipulate that this is NOT an assisted living community, and therefore, HG resources and personnel are prohibited from providing these types of services.

In protecting residents needing help, she noted that there are resources available in Aurora which specialize in assisting senior citizens.

The Aurora Police Department has resources, including assistance through a non-emergency phone number which residents and their families can call to come out for lift assists, welfare checks, and other services. Expert resources are available for helping Heather Gardens navigate through this issue and develop policies and procedures.

On major programs involving Maintenance and Budget & Finance Committees, the project to complete the reengineering necessary for the Building 201 Piping Replacement Project is in progress. The contract amount is \$162,000 with a change order reserve of \$53,345 for a total design cost of \$215,345. This will use the general design budget of \$150,000 for which the board already has awarded \$55,150 for construction management of the project. That makes HG \$120,495 over budget on this project.

Additionally, a motion was approved for the Boiler Design Replacement Project for Buildings 241 and 205, with a total project cost of \$45,400.

In other business, Director Ray Nash, Budget & Finance Committee, introduced a motion to officially accept the 2023 Audit report. The Audit is complete, with no actions required. It was approved.

Betty Bergeron, who heads the Area Representatives Organization (ARO), announced that the ARO Appreciation event to say thank you to all volunteers is slated for August 22.

On the Updated Bylaws, Bergeron noted there was an inadvertent communications error on the June 25 Pitera notice which titled it an HGA Bylaw Committee Meeting, when in actuality it was the vote on the revised bylaws. It was a violation of the bylaws that there was a vote that day, since residents were not alerted that they could attend the meeting and voice their views.

The next HGA Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20.

## The Month that was July

On July 15, Area Representative Association (ARO) President Betty Bergeron sent an email to all ARs, containing the following excerpt:

“There was an insert in the July issue of Heather ‘n Yon, giving information from the MLS realty listings about the effect the HGMD lawsuit against HGA has had on home sales in Heather Gardens. On the flip side, a letter gave the background of how and why HGMD was formed and the effects of the lawsuit on Heather Gardens. The insert was funded by residents and businesses. In a few of the buildings so far, it’s been reported that the inserts were removed from the magazines before being distributed to the residents, and inserts were missing from the magazines in the clubhouse. This is censorship. Individuals decided that they didn’t agree with the content of the insert and decided that nobody in their area could read it and decide for themselves what is accurate.

The residents of Heather Gardens have the right to decide what they will or will not read and how to respond. Removing the inserts was unethical and a violation of First Amendment rights to freedom of speech. The individuals who removed the inserts stepped way over their boundaries. If your area did not receive the inserts in the magazines, please contact the management office. The message will be passed on to the appropriate sources and to management, and copies of the insert will be made available to those who didn’t receive it.”

**Heather ‘n Yon magazine supports itself entirely through the sale of advertising. In this way, no resident/HOA money goes to Heather ‘n Yon. On the contrary – Heather ‘n Yon shares a portion of its profits with HG.**

Heather ‘n Yon employs a paid Distribution Coordinator to deliver a copy of the magazine to each doorway. In some areas, volunteers have offered to distribute the magazines within their own building or area.



## GARDEN BREAKFAST WALK



Photos by Janis Farrell

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## HGMD Board President Reports

Daniel Taylor

On Saturday, July 13th, I attended the Voice of Residents Club meeting in the auditorium. This club was created to provide politically neutral, factual information affecting the Heather Gardens Community to residents by HG residents. I've attended several meetings and all have been informative and very well attended.

The club has become an excellent way to gather resident views on community issues and requests. I think it's an efficient and effective way for a large group of residents to communicate their opinions to the HG boards, especially for those who just don't have time to attend committee meetings.

Therefore, the club will report the results of its meetings to the HGMD Board at its regular meetings on the third Thursday of the month.

I encourage all residents to attend the club's meetings. Look for postings in the clubhouse because several ARs do not post the notices.

HGMD is having a Quarterly Update on August 3rd in the Auditorium from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm with refreshments following. Directors will stay for a chance for you to ask questions one on one.

At these resident meetings, it is clear that there are still many misconceptions about HGMD and what it does. The easiest way to explain the difference between HGA and HGMD is this: The Heather Gardens Association (HGA) is a homeowners association. It is responsible for maintaining and managing the residential buildings and the parking structures. It doesn't own any real estate.

HGMD is a quasi-governmental entity regulated as other local governments. HGMD owns all of the HG property that is not residential or a parking structure. HGMD is a metropolitan district. That means it must provide two services stated in the statute. Our mandate is to provide recreation and to maintain Linvale Pl.

HGMD was formed so that bonds could be issued to purchase the clubhouse, golf course, RV lot, maintenance building and all other non-residential

property from the developer. However, in 2008, HGMD became permanent, meaning the District will exist after the bonds are repaid. The property owned by HGMD is public property. It can never be owned by HGA or anyone else without a public auction and the sale must be in the best interest of the District. If HGMD fails to maintain and manage the District property, the City of Aurora would assume its management.

Because HGMD is defined as a local government, it must substantiate that all expenditures are timely, proper and reasonable. That requires a full disclosure from HGA, which has not been given. That is the reason behind the lawsuit, to obtain an order for HGA to produce financial reporting. Additionally, HGA management has failed to manage the District's properties subject to HGMD's policies and oversight as required under the current management agreement. The lawsuit requests an early termination of this agreement, so HGMD can immediately begin to increase the revenue of the clubhouse.

The changes the Board has made to the restaurant have increased revenue 22% over last year. Last Wednesday's patio concert filled the patio, pool area, and restaurant. There were people dancing in the pool and on the patio. The Friday night bands have filled the restaurant and patio to capacity. We have ordered more tables and chairs to accommodate the crowds. Now, it's time to turn our attention to the clubhouse, but we must be able to make changes. We cannot have 80 people show up for a memorial that staff has no idea are coming. We cannot cancel movies with a few hours' notice because the projector doesn't work or have the sound system go out in the middle of a church service.

Please support your elected HGMD board in making these improvements and come see what we've done so far. These improvements are returning Heather Gardens into the active, vibrant retirement community we all moved to. Look for more special events and dances in the auditorium coming soon on the HGmetroDist.org website.



## HGA Board President Reports

Larry Dávila

In “The Unsinkable Molly Brown” Meredith Wilson has J. J. Brown singing “Colorado My Home.” How true it is! Colorado is my home. “It’s a privilege to live in Colorado!” That’s what I read in the *Denver Post* when I moved here, freshly out of college, in 1963. And, you know what? I believe it’s a privilege to live in Heather Gardens. After 23 years in our Aurora Hills home, back in 1997, my wife and I decided it was time to give condominium living a try. It was a good decision; one we have never regretted. Heather Gardens is home to me and I love my home.

In my previous column, I wrote of how pleased I was with the communication among the members of the bylaws committee. This time I’d like to acknowledge the contributions of the hard-working board of directors we have. There’s lots of diversity in our thinking and, at times, I have disagreed with some of our decisions, but I know each director is trying his/her best, not taking for granted the great responsibility placed on their shoulders. I respect their thinking and thank them for their efforts to keep Heather Gardens as good a community as it can be. This brings me to the subject of leadership we’d like. As I write, we have a committee trying to secure nominations for three spots. The current directors whose term is expiring are entitled to run again, but at least two of them have indicated they will not do so. I’m well aware running for the board is not a priority for many of you. Nevertheless, the old saying “Let George do it” won’t work in this case. Don’t think you lack leadership abilities. My experience has taught me that the one thing most leaders should have is common sense. So, consider this an invitation for you “to throw your hat in the ring.”

Many of you have stopped me with questions about the state of affairs between the District and the Association: What is happening with the Management Agreement? When will we know the results of the District’s suit? What about the calendar for the recall? etc. I don’t know the answer to the last two questions but the short answer to the first one is that the Management

Agreement will end at midnight on December 31 because the District has so voted already. I have gone on record opposing such action. Let’s keep what is good in our current Agreement and change the areas that need improvement. Are there disagreements? Sure, but they could be overcome with the parties entering a true give-and-take approach that will be welcome to all of our residents. I continue to say let’s dialogue.

With the attempted assassination of former President Trump, I echo both the Republican and Democratic parties’ efforts to lower the rhetoric. That applies also to how we Heather Gardens residents communicate. Are we building bridges or fomenting discord? Take a look at “Letters to the Editor” every month to see how positively or negatively the writers communicate. If you check my previous columns, you will notice I have not denigrated anyone with whom I might disagree. Instead, I show them respect, hoping to elicit a similar response. Disagreements are natural but, to make them productive, don’t denigrate the other person; propose a different outlook instead. Showing a lack of civility implies a behavior not worth emulating.

### HGA Nominations

**We are taking nominations for 2025.**

Applications are due on **Monday, August 12, 2024.**

The **HGA Board qualifications** are as follows:

- You must be a resident and owner of a home in Heather Gardens. By resident, we mean you must physically live here.
- You must have been a resident and owner for at least 12 months by the August meeting of the HGA Board of Directors.
- You must be current on dues and assessment. As expressed by current Board members, being a Board member provides some of these rewards:
  - Serving the needs of your community
  - Getting to know new people and making new friends
  - Using your knowledge and experience to make this a better place to live
  - Communicate our residents’ needs to other members of the Board and the community

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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

*Hello  
Heather Gardens!*



It seems like only yesterday I was having coffee with Lynn Donaldson and chatting about a job with *Heather 'n Yon* magazine. Little did I know how much my life would transform over the next few years.

I am so proud of what we have accomplished so far and look forward to our continued good work. Our mission is to create a magazine that is informative and entertaining, objective and fair, and one that reflects the unique and wonderful community that we serve.

Thank you to those who have reached out with your encouragement and kind words as well as

your suggestions and constructive feedback. It helps us learn and grow.

I wanted to answer a few questions I've received about HnY:

- *Heather 'n Yon* is a community magazine serving the Heather Gardens community (not the "official" newsmagazine).
- Bluefish Publishing is the owner of *Heather 'n Yon* magazine
- HGA has no editorial control over *Heather 'n Yon*
- Advertisements (including inserts) posted in *Heather 'n Yon* are at the discretion of Bluefish Publishing without any review by or permission from HGA

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

## SEVILLE PATRIOTIC PARTY AND PARADE



Photos by Janis Farrell

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**MANAGEMENT**

**Lary Herkal**

TJ the security manager resigned in June 2023, Montrell the Clubhouse manager resigned in August 2023, Manny the Maintenance manager resigned in August 2023, Jerry the CFO resigned in October 2023 and Jon the COO resigned in November 2023.

In response to questions, we have received:

HGA & HGMD invoices are paid every two weeks. In 2018 there were approximately 130 employees. In 2024 there are approximately 137 employees. The Clubhouse manager and Custodial manager positions were combined in May 2022 with approval of the HGMD board president.

Four new members were elected to the HGMD board and took office May 2023  
 Three new members were elected to the HGA board and took office in January 2024.

We have not had any manager leave in 2024. We have a talented team who are dedicated to Heather Gardens and thoroughly enjoy being part of the HG family.



*Welcome Matt!*

Matthew Klingbiel is our new Receptionist/Work Order Coordinator. He goes by Matthew, Matt, or "M." As a native of Colorado, he is a big Broncos fan, enjoys playing pool, a big movie buff and loves dogs. His family has a Pointer Lab and a small Burnedoodle.

**Financial Performance**

June 2024									
	Clubhouse		Golf		Restaurant		Total		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	
Revenue	\$ 80,996	\$ 108,064	\$ 230,286	\$ 211,793	\$ 220,831	\$ 545,947	\$ 532,113	\$ 865,804	
Expense	\$ 386,386	\$ 480,375	\$ 329,656	\$ 326,048	\$ 355,187	\$ 736,374	\$ 1,071,229	\$ 1,542,797	
Net	\$ (305,390)	\$ (372,311)	\$ (99,370)	\$ (114,255)	\$ (134,356)	\$ (190,427)	\$ (539,116)	\$ (676,993)	

June 2024 HGA		
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Operating Expense	\$ 6,481,802	\$ 6,831,596

Club House						
	2023		2022		2021	
Revenue	\$ 189,446		\$ 166,721		\$ 114,588	
Expense	\$ 788,048		\$ 766,327		\$ 676,846	
Net	\$ (598,602)		\$ (599,606)		\$ (562,258)	

Club House 2023 Payroll			
	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	Variance
	\$ 332,836	\$ 362,034	\$ 39,198

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# Painting Classes at HG: The Fun is Back!

Where did all the Crayons go? When we were little kids, we loved to draw with our Crayola Crayons. We begged mom for the big box with 64 Crayons and even the super large pack with 120 colors.

Before long, that changed. In school, playing with our colors became an often disappointing assignment where we couldn't help compare our works of art to what our friend at the next desk was creating.

But now, the fun is back. Heather Gardens offers a wide range of art classes and workshops. They include Watercolor, with Lisa Marvin as instructor; Anything Goes, with Cliff Austin; and Sip & Paint, plus upcoming workshops, with Kaitlyn Griffiths.

Artistic talent isn't something you have or don't have. Just as jumping into the water is so much more satisfying when you've been taught how to swim, painting becomes soothing to soul when you have learned techniques and skills from a qualified instructor.

Recent research shows that all types of painting tend to reduce stress and anxiety, improve mental health and mood, stimulate focus, improve memory and cognitive function, enhance

fine motor skills and coordination and increase communication and socialization.

"People sometimes come into my Watercolor class being very self-critical, but that goes away quickly, and they love it," explains Lisa Marvin. She has a lot of return students who are feeling a sense of pride in accomplishment.

**Not at all artistic?  
Can't draw a straight line?  
Not even a stick figure?**

**Comments from people like you  
in HG art classes:**

"I didn't know how much fun this would be."

"For two hours, I just relax and I don't think about anything else."

"I'm amazed that painting is a learnable skill."

"I've connected with new friends."

"I come away with something beautiful that I can frame and hang."

"I try to plan my first week's lesson to be something fairly easy, such as an exercise in mark making, getting the feel of using various brushes and different colors in drawing circles, lines and squares."

Other weekly lessons include Techniques of Painting Tropical Fish, Techniques for Creating Landscapes and Techniques for Painting Flowers in Transparent Vases.

"Students tell me how much fun they are having and for me that's the main objective. Yes, I want them to master the skills I'm teaching and leave with something nice to look at, but the most important thing is to relax and enjoy being creative."

Growing up in Colorado, Lisa was always drawn to art and painting. She started experimenting with oils when she was 12. In her early 20s, she got interested in watercolor art.

She saw some watercolor paintings that she would have loved to have in her home, but were prohibitively expensive. "I wondered if I could paint something similar and have it in my home, and that's what I did."

A classroom teacher for 18 years, instructing Kindergarten through sixth grade, Lisa earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of North Colorado plus a Masters in Counseling and a Masters of Library Media from the University of Colorado Denver.

She has been teaching her popular Watercolor Class at HG for the past five years.

If painting isn't fun enough, how about adding a glass of wine? Kaitlyn Griffiths' Sip & Paint is a



Lisa Marvin with one of her watercolor paintings

see page 19

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from page 17

popular new event, held once a month. "It's for people who consider themselves non-artistic and is a way to explore their creativity and connect with other people," she notes.

"I keep it simple. It's really about opening up your creativity and getting out of the house to socialize with others.

"I've been wanting to teach art classes for a long time, with my focus being on people who have never explored being artistic."

Kaitlyn is launching additional classes in August at HG, featuring one-time creative workshops, such as Abstract Square Art, Felted Soap, Tea Towels, Greeting Cards, and Watercolor Weave Art. All skill levels are welcome.

An artist all her life, Kaitlyn attended the prestigious Art Students League in Denver. Additionally, she attended graphic design school at Western State University in Gunnison, Colo. and the University of New Mexico in Taos.

Whether you are a beginner or a more experienced artist, you will be inspired in the Anything Goes Class by Cliff Austin.

"I teach art, and art encourages the mind to stay active, which provides a means of fighting Alzheimer's and other diseases," he explains. Students bring their own materials, such as water colors, pencils, acrylics or oils, and Cliff begins each session with some brief teaching and then a demo. Topics include techniques for drawing or the use of shapes, values and colors, as a couple examples. "I keep it short so that they can use most of our class time to work on their own projects.

"I try to encourage their endeavor, regardless of their experience, and help them to see things they didn't see before."

Several students focus on painting landscapes or family portraits. Another student who has been



Sip & Paint with Kaitlyn Griffiths



A quick demo by Cliff Austin in guiding his students on specific techniques

in Cliff's classes for a couple years, takes vacation photos and uses those as the basis for paintings she gives to her family.

Some of the students have their works displayed in the Clubhouse on the wall leading up to the Rendezvous. "The showing changes every three months, and it's an opportunity for students to get outside of themselves and let someone else have a look. Some of the paintings in the display have sold, which is so uplifting."

Cliff emphasizes the importance of drawing as a foundational skill. "I teach drawing, because to be a good painter you need to be skilled at drawing," he adds.

"I was a kid who didn't have any idea what to do, so I went to drafting school," he notes. After working in that field for a number of years, he attended Rocky Mountain Art School, after which he was employed as a corporate artist, doing technical illustration, graphic design and production art.

Over the past 15 years, Cliff has been a full-time professional fine artist. "I paint, I sell through galleries and I teach. It is a pleasure."

-Patricia McLaughlin, B215

## IN MEMORIAM



Rick Laster, former B235  
Bernice Radakovits, B205  
Bill Sullivan, B242

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**2868 S Heather Gardens Way #209** 2 BR/2BA 1,200 sq.ft. Under Contract in only 2 days! Sparkling Quartz countertops throughout, durable vinyl plank flooring, modern kitchen cabinetry. Encl lanai and so much more! **\$315,000**

**13626 E Bates #203** 2BR/2BA Alpha A-dinette 1,200 sq. ft. Charming and bright. Remodeled with wide open plan and hard flooring. Stainless appliances. Move in ready! **\$285,000**

**3164 S Wheeling #102** 2BR/1BA Alpha E 930 sq.ft. First floor end unit with walkout is perfect for you and your pup! Full glass-enclosed lanai. Freshly painted, new carpet and new luxury vinyl plank flooring. **\$223,500**



## **SOLD!** in the last 30 days!

**13800 E Marina #602** Seville F 2BR/2BA 1,344 sq.ft. Incredible views of the mountains from Pikes Peak to Wyoming. Only 9 days on the market! **\$346,000**

**13626 E Bates #305** 2BR +Den/2BA Alpha G, 1382 sq.ft. Cozy unit close to clubhouse with extra den. Upgraded windows, sliding glass doors. **\$240,000**

### Outside HG - Coming Soon

**20968 E 60<sup>th</sup> Place** 4BR/3BA + Office/Den Beautiful Ranch Home > in Painted Prairie! Indulge in all of the beautiful parks and open space that this development offers! Huge 10 foot ceilings throughout, sparkling quartz countertops, durable new vinyl plank. Immaculate! Call for more details!

### Outside HG - Under Contract

**14715 E Wesley** 4BR/3BA 2,864 sq.ft. in Chaddsford down the street... Family Room with fireplace. Spacious LR, great for entertaining. **\$490,000**

### Outside HG - Closed

**13680 W Ohio Ave.** Gorgeous Green Mountain Home just steps away from trailhead. **\$740,000**



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**3184 SHGW #309** 2BR/2BA Alpha A 1,200 sq.ft. Fantastic opportunity to own in Heather Gardens. Great price with loads of potential! Stainless steel appliances.

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**3144 S. Wheeling Way #410** Alpha Executive 3BR/3BA 2145 sq. ft. Generous space to enjoy or to share with a roommate and split the rent! Golf course views! \$2,585/mo.



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Photos by Janis Farrell



# Resource Fair - June 28



# IS A ROBOT PET IN YOUR FUTURE?



Among other topics, my cell phone newsfeed highlights “science and technology” stories. In the past month or so I saw a couple of articles about the same program: since 2018 New York state’s Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) has distributed more than 31,500 robotic pets (also called “animatronic pets”) to older New Yorkers who are deemed to be “socially isolated.” A study of the program’s outcomes shows that most older adults who were given a robotic, companion pet reported decreased feelings of loneliness – as well as a reduction in pain.

The program’s robotic pets—dogs, cats, and birds—are made by Ageless Innovations (the website is Joyforall.com). This is the brand’s description for the “Companion Pet Pup”:

Joy For All Companion Pet Pups provide all of the napping, cuddling, barking, and wagging—without making a mess in the house or chewing your shoes!

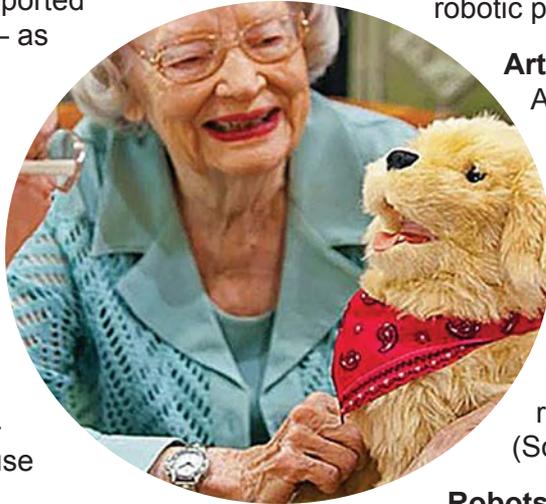
At your touch, they’ll wag, and snuggle, letting you feel their soothing heartbeat. And with innovative BarkBack technology, they’ll provide lively and charming conversation for as long as you like!

If your initial reaction to the idea of owning a robot pup is “not in a million years,” you’re not alone. How could a robot pet ever take the place of a real one, right?

For different reasons, though, some older folks aren’t equipped to care for a pet. Feeding a pet costs money. Dogs need walking and litter boxes need cleaning. And health care for pets is not cheap. Some older adults have mobility challenges, and some rental properties disallow pets. And of course many people have pet allergies.

And this: recently a woman I know at Heather Gardens spoke of her pet dog, now deceased. Her dog was a treasured companion for many years. Their bond, as you can imagine, was pure and strong. She doesn’t plan to get another dog because she doesn’t want that dog to outlive her, and then live the rest of its life without her.

Photo above: A woman has fun with a robot pup  
(photo courtesy of Ageless innovations)



## A new breed of robot pets

When it comes to emerging technology, two themes have dominated recent news stories: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics. The merging of AI and robotics will transform the workplace in ways not yet recognized – and will at some point lead to household changes too.

These definitions might help us envision how robotic pets will evolve:

**Artificial intelligence (“AI”).** Artificial intelligence (AI) is a set of technologies that enable computers to perform a variety of advanced functions, including the ability to see, understand and translate spoken and written language, analyze data, make recommendations, and more. (Source: Google Cloud)

**Robots.** A robot is an autonomous machine capable of sensing its environment, carrying out computations to make decisions, and performing actions in the real world. (Source: Robotsguide.com)

Because it can quickly produce “new” works based on vast libraries of what has come before, “Generative AI” threatens the livelihood of writers and artists. And these days it’s not unusual to see in someone’s home a Roomba vacuum, avoiding obstacles as it dutifully sucks the carpet clean. The Roomba, and its competitors, are very basic examples of “intelligent” robots.

More sophisticated robots, equipped with more advanced AI, are already out there. Recently my wife and I toured the impressive new “Sphere” in Las Vegas. In the atrium we witnessed humanoid robots that carried on rudimentary conversations with people. The robot we watched had feminine features and voice. It turned towards a person asking a question, answered the query, and then asked that person a question in return (and politely apologized if it misunderstood something). The conversations between person and robot were simple – and astonishing. This ability for robots to

continued on next page

interact autonomously with humans will improve drastically, and soon.

In 10 years, a robotic dog or cat or bird might progress far beyond barks and meows and chirps. It might just converse with its owner.

### Pet owners weigh in



Diana S., Lilette B., and Laurie F. pose with their dogs

My wife and I are not pet owners (I've got allergies), so I wanted to get some feedback from some Heather Gardens residents who have pets. A friend introduced me to three of her neighbors, who live in a Country Place community in Heather Gardens. All are dog owners—as we sat discussing robotic pets, their dogs played together nearby—and all had questions, and opinions, about robotic pets. A summary of our conversation:

**Diana S. and dog Gracie.** Diana has a Roomba vacuum. She said “it’s great!” She isn’t quite as keen about getting a robotic dog, however. She currently has Gracie as well as a cat. Gracie and the cat “get along well,” Diana said, but she’s not sure how either of them would react to a robotic addition. She doubted that she would ever own a robotic pet anytime in the future.

**Lilette B. and dog Chloe.** Lilette had read about robotic companion pets and knew that they can benefit older people with dementia. She was happy to learn that robotic pets now look much more lifelike “and are able to be cuddled and sit in your lap” – she didn’t like that an early version of an animatronic dog she’d seen was “smooth and hard.” Lilette was willing to give a robotic pet a try, provided it had a smell, its fur was realistic, it could respond to simple commands, and it was smart enough to recharge itself.

**Laurie F. and dog Sadie.** Laurie was dubious about owning a robotic pet, but did see their

potential “security” value: “If the dog is taught to bark when the doorbell rings and things like that, I could see more people buying that kind of dog for security,” she said. She noted that such a “security pet” would be on constant alert, an added plus.

The three women acknowledged that robotic pets have certain things going for them: owning one is cheaper, and caring for one easier, than the real thing. But all agreed too that the biggest drawback of a robotic pet is that it wouldn’t have a distinct personality; no matter how much you might pretend otherwise, a robot pet “can’t love you back.”

They also claimed, laughing, that what they really wanted wasn’t a robotic pet – they wanted a robotic maid!

Will robotic or animatronic pets in the home become commonplace, or will they remain a niche industry? Time will tell. However, it’s certain that they’re going to get smarter and more nimble. Advances in programming might well give a robotic pet the “personality” it now lacks, and maybe even the ability to talk. Don’t be surprised if, in five or 10 years, you knock on a friend’s front door and it’s a robotic pet that politely asks “Who is it?”

-Bill Kaluza, B232

# AURORA EVENTS



## Sounds of Southlands

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[shopsouthlands.com/eventprograms](https://shopsouthlands.com/eventprograms)

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### Rebel Market

Saturdays in August, 9am-1pm

Del Mar Park (6th and Peoria)

<https://www.rebelmarketplace.com>

### Southlands Farmer's Market

Saturdays in August, 8am-1pm

6155 S. Main St.

Aurora, CO 80016

[www.shopsouthlands.com/eventprograms/farmers-market](https://www.shopsouthlands.com/eventprograms/farmers-market)

### Global Fest

Saturday, August 17, 11am-6pm

Aurora Municipal Center - Great Lawn

15151 E. Alameda Parkway.

<https://www.auroragov.org/>

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## FREE Days in August

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**Wednesday, August 28**

720-865-3500, 9am-7pm

<https://www.botanicgardens.org>

1007 York Street

### Denver Art Museum

**Tuesday, August 13**

720-865-5000, 10am-9pm

[www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org)

100 W 14th Ave Pkwy

### Denver Museum of Nature and Science

**Wednesday, August 21**

**(FREE EVENING: 5-9pm)**

303.370.6000, 9am-5pm

<https://www.dmns.org>

2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver

### Four Mile Historic Park

**Friday, August 23**

720-865-0800, 10am-4pm

[www.fourmilepark.org](http://www.fourmilepark.org)

715 S. Forest St. Denver

### Longmont Museum

**Saturday, August 23**

303-651-8374, 9am-5pm

[www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/museum](http://www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/museum)

400 Quail Rd 80501

### National Parks

**Saturday, August 4**

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[www.nps.gov/state/co/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/state/co/index.htm)

### Plains Conservation Center

**Thursday, Aug. 15**

303-326-8380, 9am – 2pm

[www.botanicgardens.org/other-locations/plains-conservation-center](http://www.botanicgardens.org/other-locations/plains-conservation-center)

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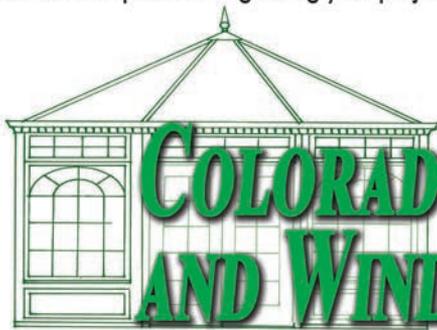
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# AUGUST CALENDAR

<b>Thu 1</b>	Tai Chi (every Thursday) TOPS (every Thursday) Fun Gals Golf (every Thursday) Optimist Club (1st and 3rd Thursday) Time4Tap Bunko (1st and 3rd Thursday) Social Bridge (every Thursday) Writers Club Ping Pong (every Thursday) Kiwanis Club of Aurora	Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Golf Course Rendezvous Bar & Grill Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Skyview Room Game Room Skyview Room	8-11am 8:30am 9am 9am 11am-12pm 1-3:30pm 1-3:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 6pm
<b>Fri 2</b>	Men with Purpose (1st and 3rd Friday) Texas Hold'em	Skyview Room Mountain View Room	10-11am 12:30-5pm
<b>Sat 3</b>	Mexican Train Dominoes Ping Pong (every Saturday) Karaoke Club	Arts and Crafts Room Game Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	12p-3pm 2pm 3-5pm
<b>Sun 4</b>	Social Bridge (every Sunday)	Skyview Room	1-3:30pm
<b>Mon 5</b>	Men's Bridge Book Club Spanish Club (every Monday) Texas Hold'em (1st Monday) Mah Jongg (every Monday) Games Galore!	Skyview Room Mountain View Room Aspen Room Aspen Room Blue Spruce Room Arts and Crafts Room	10am-2pm 10:30am & 1pm 11am-12pm 12:30-5pm 1-4pm 4-6pm
<b>Tue 6</b>	Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tuesday) Mah Jongg (every Tuesday) Ping Pong (every Tuesday) Billiard Club (every Tuesday)	Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Billiard Room	12:30-4pm 1-4pm 2pm 6:30pm
<b>Wed 7</b>	Afternoon Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Woodshop Club Rummikub (every Wed) Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	Sunburst Cafe Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Lodgepole Lounge Sandberg Auditorium	12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1pm 1-3pm 7-9pm
<b>Thu 8</b>	The Green Team	Blue Spruce Room	12pm

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- Estate Planning
- Estate Administration
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- Wills
- Trusts
- Elder Law

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<b>Fri 9</b>	Birding and Nature Club HG Indivisible	Lodgepole Lounge Skyview Room	11:30am 11:30am
<b>Sat 10</b>	The Breakfast Club <b>Hippie Dance</b>	Rendezvous Bar & Grill <b>Sandberg Auditorium</b>	8:30am <b>6:30-8:30pm</b>
<b>Mon 12</b>	Texas Hold'em (2nd, 3rd and 4th Mon)	Mountain View Room	12:30-5pm
<b>Wed 14</b>	Aviation Club <b>Active Minds: Women of Denver History</b> B201 & B202	Aspen Room <b>Sandberg Auditorium</b> TBA	7pm <b>2-3pm</b> 4:30pm
<b>Thu 15</b>	Social Justice Discussion	Blue Spruce Room	10am-12pm
<b>Sat 17</b>	Voice for Residents Club Wine & Cheese Club	Sandberg Auditorium Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	3-4:30pm 3-5pm
<b>Mon 19</b>	Photo Club	Aspen Room	3-5pm
<b>Tue 20</b>	Caregivers Support Group	Aspen Room	2-4pm
<b>Wed 21</b>	<b>Xfinity/Comcast Bill Review</b> Frolics: "Love Lift Us Up"	<b>Library</b> Rendezvous Bar & Grill	<b>12-3pm</b> 4pm
<b>Thu 22</b>	<b>Kathleen Arnold: Colorado Mafia</b>	<b>Sandberg Auditorium</b>	<b>1-2pm</b>
<b>Sat 24</b>	National Federation of the Blind Republican Club	Mountain View Room Picnic Pavillion	10:30am-12:30pm 11am-2pm
<b>Mon 26</b>	Low Vision Support Group	Aspen Room	1:30pm
<b>Tue 27</b>	<b>Mountain Man Nut &amp; Fruit Co.</b> HG Democrats Sevillians	<b>Clubhouse Lobby</b> Picnic Pavillion Rendezvous Bar & Grill	<b>2:15-3:15pm</b> 4-5:30pm 4:30-6pm

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

### Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, August 5 Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday by appt.), Arts & Crafts Room, 9am-12pm (see ad p. 55)

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## Boards and Committees Monthly Meetings

SEC (BR/Zoom) – 4 pm Mon, Aug 5  
CECC (BR/Zoom) – 11 am Tue, Aug 6  
Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Aug 6  
Maintenance (Zoom) – 1 pm Thu, Aug 8  
Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Fri, Aug 9  
RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Mon, Aug 12  
ACC (Zoom) – 10 am Thu, Aug 15

### **HGMD Board (BR/Zoom) - 1pm Thu, Aug 15**

Capital Program (BR/Zoom) - 1pm Fri, Aug 16  
Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Mon, Aug 19  
Joint Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Aug 21  
Open Forum (BR/Zoom) - 3pm Wed, Aug 21

### **HGA Board (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Aug 20**

HGMD Foundation Committee (BR/Zoom) - 1pm - Wed, Aug 14  
HGMD Audit/Finance (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Mon, Aug 19  
Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, Aug 27  
Resident Orientation (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Wed, Aug 28  
Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3 pm Thu, Aug 29

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

## TOWN HALL MEETING With Angela Lawson

Ward V, Aurora City Council

**Saturday, August 17  
10-11:30am**

**Aspen/Blue Spruce**

Visit [AuroraGov.org/TownMeetings](https://AuroraGov.org/TownMeetings) to  
find links for joining virtual meetings  
and to confirm meeting  
dates and location

# Heather 'n Yon Deadline: 8/16

**Please submit to:  
[bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com](mailto:bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com)**

**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](https://meet.google.com/vpk-rgxi-fja).

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

**HG Women's Bible Study** meets the fourth  
Thursday at 10-11:30 am, in the Mt. View room in  
person and also on Zoom. All other Thursday's  
are via Zoom only. Contact Carolyn Morris, 303-  
885-7807, or [motoringmorris@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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,**

Thank you to the WONDERFUL staff we have at Heather Gardens! Where else can you find concerned staff members willing to do a good job for residents every day. There are countless instances in which our employees have gone out of their way to be of help, despite demanding workloads. Our staff deals thoughtfully with a senior community and they spend time talking to us, helping us in ways not often found in today's rushed world.

The overwhelming majority of us, residents at Heather Gardens, are solidly behind you and recognize your efforts!!

It is a pleasure to find management efficiently run; attention to detail with budgets; repairs competently handled; lawns manicured; roads quickly plowed; security guards attending to a wide variety of needs and concerns; multistory buildings cleaned, vacuumed, and maintained; a good restaurant staff and chef; a golf course superintendent and PGA pro; a human resources department that carefully vets new staff.

Because our staff is salaried fairly, they have more commitment to and accountability for the jobs they do and it shows in their work ethic.

It would be unnecessary, expensive, and ill-advised to duplicate services and staff in the areas mentioned above. If HGMD implements duplication in services, YOU, Heather Gardens owners, will be paying much more in HOA dues.

If temporary workers are brought in to replace salaried workers, attention to detail in every area of service will slip. With temporary workers, our community will not be as well-maintained, but the cost to HG residents is likely to remain the same.

-Estelle Matus, 216 & Ellen Silon, 215

## **Heather 'n Yon,**

Wow! What used to cost me \$20 for my wife and I to attend a Friday night dance at the HG Rendezvous is now free!! Three Friday nights per month plus the additional music combos on the patio on Wednesdays are now at no cost!! Such a deal!!

Wait! These bands aren't playing for free, are they? Of course not. The president of HGMD announced at the May Restaurant Committee meeting that the District will pick up the cost of the monthly music, to the "tune" of \$2,400 to \$4,500 (pun intended). Instead of the attendees paying their way into the dances, this will be added to the cost of running Heather Gardens. We all share in the cost of the golf course whether we play or not. I get it, the course adds to the appeal of our community and value to our homes. Do we all want to pay for music so that 50 or so residents can dance on Wednesday and Friday evenings for free?

There was no cost-benefit analysis presented by the HGMD president, only the statement that it's a done deal. It wasn't even a line item in this year's budget. The restaurant committee members (except for the chairwoman) did not know this was going to happen or was it on the agenda. Nor did it get voted on. I know because I was an observer at the meeting. What is needed is a sense of business acumen in these types of decisions. This cost is going straight into our HOA fees for next year.

-Bill Ross, CP2

## **Heather 'n Yon,**

I am calling out Larry Davila as President of the HGA Board. For over a year, you (and your Directors) have stalled and shut down the HGMD Board. You've prevented them from doing the job 1000+ HG Residents voted for them to do.

You have kept them from using Pitera - for which we, as residents,

pay for BOTH BOARDS to access. You allow the ARO to post bulletins about the RECALL and political meetings for the INDIVISIBLE CLUB TRAINING, while allowing AR's to choose not to post about VOICE OF THE RESIDENTS meetings.

You mouth the words "Can't we all get along" while contentiously dragging your feet hoping the RECALL will save your Bacon.

Your Contracts Department was buying The Rendezvous an indoor cooler, when the item needed was an outside freezer. That contract also failed to include installation, and a new concrete support pad. HGMD caught this major error. Yet, you blame the HGMD for incompetence and being "difficult". HGA has gone from 80, to over 100 employees in the 7 years I've lived here. There is no more work here than in 2017—Why the additional salaries?

And what is this I hear about INCREASING HGA BOARD MEMBERS TERMS TO NINE YEARS? GOD help us. Larry Davila, I lay this at your feet. This RECALL, and its associated expenses, would never have gone forward without your (and the Board's) tacit, if not explicit consent. FIX IT NOW! Lary Herkal, respectfully, I believe

see p. 33

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!



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## Letters continued

you speak only as the HGA Board wants you to. I realize HGA hired you, but as GM, we residents pay for your salary: Please remember you work for US, and by extension, YOU WORK FOR THE HGMD BOARD AS WELL.

-Kevin Keator, B217

### **Heather 'n Yon,**

Is the ARO now a partisan organization? The "Residents For Renewed Leadership" is simply an offshoot of the Recall Petition Committee, except that now by including the Area Representative Organization (ARO) in their partisan politics they have corrupted that organization.

HGA Bylaws, ARTICLE III, A. states, the ARO "is a component of the Heather Gardens Association, and its functions are those delegated to it by the Board." And ARTICLE IV, A. states that Area Representatives (AR's) "represent Area residents..." AR's using not just their names but also their titles for political advocacy is not an ARO function delegated by the Board and is unauthorized. More grievous is to assume they can speak for their residents' political views.

They did so by attaching their names and titles in the "Residents For Renewed Leadership" insert in the July 2024 Heather 'n Yon, which promotes itself as "The Official Newsmagazine for HG" In it, they advocated residents, "to recall and remove the members of the District Board..." and defamed those directors by stating they "support misuse of our HOA funds."

[The July 2024 insert was paid for by the Residents for Renewed Leadership and represents their opinion only, not that of HnY]

HGA owns the *Heather 'n Yon* newsmagazine and there are contractual provisions for review of submissions prior to publication. Allowing HGA's newsmagazine to advocate the removal of District Directors is an unethical use of the ARO.

The ARO, led by its President Betty Bergeron have violated the time-honored Bylaw requirement of keeping the organization politically neutral and non-partisan. As a show of good faith, the HGA Board needs to issue a public disclaimer and remove from the ARO those Area Representatives involved in that unethical conduct.

-Forrest McClure, CP2

### **Heather N' Yon,**

The July issue flyer provided by "Residents for Renewed Leadership" claim lower home sales in HG due to HGMD lawsuit against the HGA. These are false statements and misinformation.

HG is no different than the over-all National Real Estate Market. Several people are re-financing or buying in HG and have been told this lawsuit has no effect on them getting financing. No money is being sought, only spent for legal fees mostly by HGA.

Denver numbers for June 2024 show homes on the market for 30+ days, a 65.1% increase over June 2023. Average home prices down \$22,869, -3.6% during this same period. 44% of homes in Denver sold under asking price during June 2024. In 2022, homes were on the market an average of 36 days. Through October 2023, that number is up to 45 days. Data from January through September of 2023 report 47.2% of homes have sold under asking. (Rocket Homes/Mortgage)

"As of April 2024, homes spent an average of 47 days on the market up from a low of 30 days set in April 2022 but down from a recent high of 72 days in January 2023." [www.homelight.com](http://www.homelight.com)

HG: 60-Homes on the market, 35-Reduced Price@ \$360.2K (\$10.3K Avg), 17- Sale Pending, 10-Reduced Price@ \$87K,\$8.7K Avg (Realtor.com: as of July 8th 2024)

Homes are selling in Heather Gardens. Rest assured they will continue. (See homes sold in your monthly issues of *Heather n' Yon*

for the past year or go to Realtor.com)

4 for Change ran for office to get answers, for us, the residents, as to why our HOA dues continue to rise year after year!

Don't be misled by the continued misinformation. Stop the Recall! Stop the needless spending!

-John Guise, B217

### **Heather 'n Yon,**

The HGMD board meeting of June 20 was an eye opener. As was the "Leadership" Meeting on June 13th. Both boards worked hard at listening to each other, but you could feel the tension and animosity. Hearing how the 2 boards are going to be divided, I wondered how it is going to save us money. HGMD wants their own security, maintenance, gardeners and General Manager. Those employees won't work on HGA assets. So, the buildings and town homes being HGA's responsibility will have to have separate security, maintenance, gardeners AND General Manager. There was discussion about how to divvy up the existing assets. They even discussed vacuum cleaners. What about rags and cleaning solutions?! Both HGA and HGMD have valid points. However, separate management entities don't solve the issues our community faces. It can only create chaos, anger, and fractured communication. I look forward to someone making some sense of the money saving theory behind this separation. So far, I haven't heard anything convincing.

Thank you,

-Nikki Tennant, B214

### **Heather 'n Yon,**

If you have not yet experienced the atmosphere at the Rendezvous Restaurant, it is highly recommended to explore their new menu and entertainment they are introducing to the community. During a recent visit on

see p. 51

# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

## **Aviation Club**

We meet the second Wednesday of each month, 7 pm, Aspen Room. This club is for anyone interested in aircraft and aviation. See you August 14. – Rudy Morris

## **Birding and Nature Club**

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

## **Book Club**

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

## **B201 and B202**

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

## **The Breakfast Club**

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

TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it has three other chapters along the Front Range. We have ongoing activities, such as bowling, the Birthday Bash, eating at a new restaurant, and Happy Hour.

Each month, there are also different activities planned, such as museums, sports events, plays, concerts, and day trips, to name a few. Come see! – Suzanne Harmes

## **CP1**

Our happy hours are on the

first Wednesday, time and location TBA. – Susan Osman, susanosman21@gmail.com.

## **CP2**

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

## **CP4**

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

## **Caregivers Support Group**

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

## **Democrats/HG**

The Heather Gardens Democratic Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, in the auditorium, 4-5:30 pm. You do not have to be an HG resident or a registered Democrat. Our meetings are free of charge.

The purpose of the club is to support our elected Democratic officials, the Constitution of the United States, the rule of law, and good government.

We meet to share information, to learn about current issues from local to federal, and express our democratic values. You are invited to join those of us who go to dinner at the Rendezvous after the meeting for more fellowship.

Our August meeting will be Tuesday, August 27, in the Picnic Pavilion, north of the tennis courts and community center. This is our

annual potluck picnic, so please plan to bring a dish to serve 10-12 people. Please call me or email me to let me know you are coming, and what you plan to bring. We invite local elected Democratic officials. Join us for a good time and good food!

– Marty Karnopp, Chair, 303-353-9640, hgdemocrats@gmail.com

## **Frolics Club**

Come enjoy the Frolics Traveling Troupe at the Rendezvous, on Wednesday, Aug. 21, 4 pm. Our theme will be "Love Lift Us Up!" – all things inspirational. We always welcome new members. The only requirement – you must want to have fun! Frolic with us – contact Susie Hayes, 303-745-1816.

## **The Green Team**

Have you noticed four tall poles with wood boxes at the top of each one located just north of Seville? Maybe you have driven or walked past and wondered, "What in the world are these?"

They are bat houses, which were erected by The Green Team. Next thought you may have could be, "why?" Here's the reason.

Our beautiful golf course has several lovely ponds, which are breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Those pesky blood-sucking critters love to attack as we wander around our neighborhood in warm weather. So, instead of dealing with multiple itching and scratching on the welts they create, our club decided to do something about it.

Yes, we could have been satisfied with pesticide being sprayed on the ground for us humans to inhale, or our pets to lick off their paws. But we are an environmental group that cares about and takes an interest in our surroundings.

Many hours of planning and work were involved in creating those

houses. Each can accommodate 300 female bats and babies. (The males roam freely.) Did you know a bat consumes an average of 1,200 insects every night? Although it may take months before they discover these new quarters, we are looking forward to enjoying a future of warm evenings, breathing fresh air, without nasty red marks covering our body parts.

Please join us at 4 pm, Saturday, Sept. 7, on East Marina Drive, for our official ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome these new neighbors.

Our monthly meetings are at noon, the second Thursday of each month, Blue Spruce Room. We hope you will join us. – Wendy Pfaffhausen

#### **Indivisible/HG**

Friday, Aug. 9, Skyview Room, 11:30 am-1 pm (lunch after, at Rendezvous) Facilitated Discussion: On Tyranny (continued): Resisting the 2025 Agenda.

We will also start Neighbor2Neighbor and postcard campaigns to get out the vote for democracy-embracing candidates.

Connected to over 6,000 groups nationwide, Heather Gardens Indivisible is a community of neighbors who choose to make a difference in the world, addressing the many problems we see with positive, forward-thinking actions. We address issues that concern us, such as wealth inequality, racial injustice, women's reproductive rights, gun safety, etc., with both education and action. Although people of any political affiliation are welcome, our approach is progressive and, in the upcoming election, we will support candidates whose values echo these goals.

Whether you can regularly attend the meetings or not, you are welcome to also sign up for our newsletter of information and action items. Questions? Contact Gina Abegg, facilitator,

ginaabegg2020@gmail.com. To receive regular mailings, contact C. C. Carson, membership, cccarson287@gmail.com.

#### **Karaoke Club**

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

#### **Kiwanis Club of Aurora**

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

#### **Lifelong Learners**

For those of you who are still wondering who we are and what we do, the Lifelong Learners Mission Statement below should answer those questions. "Learners at Heather Gardens is a group of volunteer residents with a passion for lifelong learning who develop courses and discussion sessions on a wide variety of topics presented in a relaxed 'learning for the fun of it' atmosphere, enriching the quality of life and social interaction at Heather Gardens. We develop courses presented at minimal cost to our participants in three annual sessions led by peer instructors who have a deep interest in their topics. Our participants are residents and friends of Heather Gardens who have a desire to learn, a curious nature, and who seek to continue growing intellectually and socially in their retirement years."

Learners just wrapped up its second successful session, and is now planning its fall term offerings, which will start in October.

#### **Men with Purpose**

A group of men, with diversified

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

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

#### **National Federation of the Blind, Aurora Chapter**

Meet other blind and low-vision people at the monthly meeting, held on the fourth Saturday of each month, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Mountainview Room. We discuss new medical options, accessible games, transportation, and idea-sharing. Contact Dale Holden, B213, 303-905-9738.

#### **Optimist Club**

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

#### **Photo Club**

If you want to learn more about photography, get inspired, meet others who share your passion, make new friends, and learn how to share those great trips, try the HG Photo Club. We discuss the different ways of taking photos, and how things have changed in the photo world. We meet on the third Monday, 3-5 pm, Aspen Room. The next meeting will be August 19. Contact Rudy Morris, 303-506-8070, rudymorris4@gmail.com.

#### **Republican Club**

In lieu of our meeting regularly held on the fourth Tuesday of the month (August 27), we will hold a candidate rally and a BBQ picnic

on Saturday, August 24, 11 am - 2 pm, Picnic Pavilion. We are asking folks to donate \$5 per person toward the BBQ picnic: hots and brats, side dishes, desserts and beverage.

RSVP to Robin O'Meara, President, to make a reservation; text 303-949-4916, or email rlomeara1@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting our candidates and working together to get out the vote. Thank you.

### Sevillians

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

### Singers/Mixed Chorus

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

### Singles Club/OPOCS

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

### Social Justice Discussion

Unpacking The Society In Which We Live, the HG Social Justice Group, invites you to participate in a roundtable discussion on the third Thursday of each month, 10 am-noon, Blue Spruce Room. On Thursday, Aug. 15, our speaker will be Sherry Henderson, author of *Black Magnolia: An Unequivocal Southern Belle*, the wisdom-rich story of an African American woman raised in the unsophisticated backwoods of Mississippi. Your participation is

valued. Facilitators: Bernie Hupperts, marlynber@gmail.com; Diane Pritchard, dianekpritchard@gmail.com.

### Spanish Club (Club en Español)

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

### SRA

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

### TOPS

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

Men and women are welcome. For information, contact Lisa Jackson, 469-323-5434 or mljackson81@gmail.com.

### Voice For Residents Club

The Voice for Residents Club was formed to provide a forum for residents to stay current and informed on issues facing Heather Gardens. The main issue at hand is the negotiation between HGA and HGMD regarding the management agreement. If or when this agreement is finalized, the Voice for Residents will have a special meeting or meetings to review the proposed contract with our residents.

In the meantime, we will continue our review of the Recall Process, with other topics, as time permits. Below are the scheduled meetings until November. All the meetings below will be held on Saturdays, in the auditorium.  
Aug. 17, 3-4:30 pm  
Sept. 21, 3-4:30 pm  
Oct. 12, 3-4:30 pm  
Nov. 9, 3-4:30 pm  
– Contact, Vickie Hoffman, TheVoiceForResidents@Gmail.com.

### Wine & Cheese Social Club

We meet on the third Saturday of every month. Join us at 3–5 pm Saturday, Aug. 17, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. Bring a beverage and snack to share. Entertainment is provided. For more information, call the Clubhouse Activity Desk, 303-751-1811, ext. 5.

### Woodshop Club

The Woodshop Club promotes use of the Woodshop and better care of the equipment, focuses on safety within the Woodshop, and helps develop new woodworking classes, fellowship, and training. Meetings are the first Wednesday of the month, 1 pm, Mountain View Room.

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

### Writers Club

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

On August 26  
(fourth Monday),  
the **Low Vision  
Support Group**  
will meet in the  
Aspen Room, 1:30 pm.  
Questions?  
Call Marsha Bengen,  
720-535-5224

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# SPORTS & RECREATION

## Billiard Club

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

### 8-Ball June 18

1st Otis Lawson, Steve Olson  
2nd Sean Kelliher, Michael Greene  
3rd Brian Bucenec, Miquela Luna

### June 25

1st Lindy Davenport, Judy Brehmer

2nd Doug Miller, Judy Hein

3rd Otis Lawson, Miquela Luna

### July 2

1st Dee Moore, Otis Lawson

2nd Mark Holland, Judy Brehmer

3rd Don Gunnarson, Connie Burns

### July 9

1st Otis Lawson, Steve Olsen

2nd Jack Doherty, Kit Carstens

3rd Don Gunnarson, Judy Hein

### 9-Ball Results June 20

1st Jack Doherty

2nd John Manzanares

### June 27

1st Otis Lawson

2nd Roger Goldstein

### July 4

1st Steve Hesser

2nd Ted Herrera

### July 11

1st Otis Lawson

2nd John Manzanares

3rd Tammy Beeman

## Bowling League

Our new bowling season is just around the corner. The first week of our new season begins Thursday, Sept. 5.

We bowl at Arapahoe Bowl, 6850 S Dayton, 10 am every Thursday. All levels of bowlers are welcome. There will likely be a signup/organization meeting Thursday, Aug. 29, time and place to be determined. Watch for flyers and communications coming soon. Please contact Mary Jo Prichard,

mjpinsurance@hotmail.com, if you would like to be added to our communication list. We hope you will join us! – Glenn Riggs

## Bridge/Men's Monday

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

## Bridge/Social

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

## Bunko

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

## Cribbage/Afternoon

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

## Duplicate Bridge/ACBL

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

## Games Galore!

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

## Golf/Fun Gals

Fun Gals Golf is for ladies who are interested in some casual, non-competitive golf. It is not part

of the HG Ladies Golf Club, and is not a league. It has no dues, no handicaps, no pressure, and no judgment – just golfing with other women for fun.

Fun Gals Golf is played on Thursday mornings, with the first of three tee times starting at 9. To participate, call the HG Pro Shop, at 303-751-2390; when the message starts – press 1. When they answer, specify you want to play "Fun Gals Golf," and reserve your tee time. – Linda Hileman, 303-514-5379.

## Golf Club/Ladies

With three months of play in the books, the Heather Gardens Ladies Golf Club is averaging just shy of 60 players each week. Members' skills have been on display, with eight birdies and five chip-ins recorded between June 12 and July 10. After an impromptu poll of members following an extremely hot morning on the course, the board opted to move July and August shotgun starts to 8 am, to help mitigate playing in the late-morning heat.

### Tournament of Champions – September 4 and 11

Over the past few years, the club's annual Tournament of Champions, which is a two-week event, has seen a significant decline in player participation. This has been true across all flights, but has been especially noticeable in D Flight. When asked about not playing, members told the board they felt they were not skilled enough to play in a competitive event. With that feedback in mind, the board had several lengthy discussions about how to design play to be more inclusive. The plan they developed for play on September 4 and 11 offers two choices: Regular league play or the Tournament of Champions. The board felt that offering two options would give everyone an opportunity to play and potentially win money both weeks. Players

will need to decide by Wednesday, Aug. 28, which option they will select. Once an option is selected, it cannot be changed.

#### *Option 1*

Regular Play – Play on both September 4 and 11 will be the same as every week during the regular season, with payouts each week based on net scores by flight.

#### *Option 2*

Tournament of Champions – This will be the same format the club has used historically, with each player's gross score by flight, after two weeks of play, determining the winners.

There will be 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in every flight.

Players will play with those in their flight each week. Players must play both weeks to be eligible to win.

#### **Club Website**

Don't forget to check out the club's website, [www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com](http://www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com), for valuable information, including weekly tee times, handicaps, and the club's membership roster. The site also includes Golf Tip Videos from Club Pro Greg Kohr and minutes from the board of directors' meetings. Visit the site regularly to keep up to date on club news.

#### **Calendar of Events**

Please add these important dates to your calendar:

August 28 Club Elections & Picnic  
September 4 & 11:

Club Championship

September 25:

2nd Annual Chicks & Hens Event

October 2: Shamble Scramble

October 16: Fall Luncheon

October 19: Las Vegas Scramble

All women interested in league play are invited to join HGLGC, regardless of skill level. Learn more about the club and get a membership application at the Heather Gardens Pro Shop and our website, [www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com](http://www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com).

Due to club elections, the next HGLGC board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 1 pm in the Board Room.

All members are encouraged to attend. Minutes from all board meetings are posted on the club's website.

#### Tournament Results June 12

##### *Flight A*

1st Kathy Stebbins

2nd Nancy Wilson

3rd Joyce Luffa

4th Nancy Bonniwell, Margie Francone

##### *Flight B*

1st Mary Jo Prichard

2nd Barb Gierscher, Barb

McShane, Marsha Swink

##### *Flight C*

1st Suzi Stolte

2nd Ann Agee, Vickie Goodspeed, Bev Nelson

##### *Flight D*

1st Pam Acosta

2nd Candia Lang

3rd Marilyn Cornell

4th Susan Craig

##### *Low Gross Awards*

Flight A – JoAnn Fitch

Flight B – Flo Madonna, Mary Kay

Mauro, Nancy Reid, Debbie Smith,

Carol Strickland, Gina Studer

Flight C – Linda Hileman

Flight D – Ellen Allie

#### June 19

##### *Flight A*

1st Nancy Wilson

2nd Margie Francone, Judy Phillips

4th Sara Stoner

##### *Flight B*

1st Debbie Smith, Gina Studer

2nd Bonnie Soman

4th Anne Gillis

##### *Flight C*

1st Nina Churchman

2nd Linda Gonzalez, Carol

Gumpert, Mo Klick

##### *Flight D*

1st Candia Lang

2nd Joan McGary, Kathy Gaddis

4th Betsy Adams

##### *Low Gross Awards*

Flight A – Judy Nelson

Flight B – Linda Jeannelle

Flight C – Bev Nelson, JoAnn

Sterling

Flight D – Sandy Costello

#### June 26

##### *Flight A*

1st JoAnn Fitch, Mary Kay Rohrer,

Nancy Wilson

4th Joyce Luffa

##### *Flight B*

1st Sharon Rademacher

2nd Pat Taylor

3rd Karin Bentley, Barb Gierscher,

Cindy Koch, Mary Kay Mauro

##### *Flight C*

1st Sue Robertson

2nd Mavis Richardson

3rd Nina Churchman, Sharla

Sheets

##### *Flight D*

1st Sandy Costello

2nd Joan McGary

3rd Gwen Alexander

4th Susan Craig

##### *Low Gross Awards*

Flight A – Sara Stoner

Flight B – Bonnie McMullen

Flight C – Ann Agee, Connie Burns,

Linda Gonzalez, Linda Hileman,

Christine Rothwell

Flight D – Ellen Allie

#### July 3

##### *Flight A*

1st Linda Jeannelle

2nd Judy Nelson, Nancy Wilson

4th Charlane Plucke, Mary Kay

Rohrer

##### *Flight B*

1st Betty Parko

2nd Linda Savage, Bonnie Soman,

Gina Studer, Pay Taylor

##### *Flight C*

1st Myra Lansky

2nd Connie Burns, Linda Gonzalez

4th Mo Klick, Carol Anne Mayne,

Mavis Richardson, Laura

Thompson

##### *Flight D*

1st Susan Craig

2nd Joan McGary

3rd Lisa Matthews

4th Ellen Umhoefer

##### *Low Gross Awards*

Flight A – Sara Stoner

Flight B – Marilyn Kaub

Flight C – Ann Agee

Flight D – Sandy Costello, Carol

Gumpert

#### July 10

##### *Flight A*

1st Linda Jeannelle

2nd Judy Philips, Mary Kay Rohrer,

Nancy Wilson

##### *Flight B*

1st Carol Strickland, Marsha Swink

3rd Linda Savage, Debbie Smith,

Bonnie Soman

##### *Flight C*

1st Carol Ann Mayne

2nd Sharla Sheets

3rd Mavis Richardson  
 4th Judy Brehmer, Dee Moore,  
 Laura Thompson  
*Flight D*  
 1st Ellen Allie  
 2nd Sharon Weiss  
 3rd Carol Gumpert, Kathy Shields  
*Low Gross Awards*  
 Flight A – JoAnn Fitch, Liz  
 Sanchez, Kathy Stebbins  
 Flight B – Cindy Koch  
 Flight C – Linda Hileman, JoAnn  
 Sterling  
 Flight D – Sandy Costello  
 – Suzi Stolte, Publicity Chair

### **Golf/Men's**

*Tournament Play, June 21*

#### *Flight E*

1st James Busby  
 2nd Mark Giarratano, Kenny  
 Duncan, Rich Richardson, George  
 Madonna

#### *Flight D*

1st Joe Rook  
 2nd Bill DeSonier  
 3rd Glenn Riggs, Dave Walstrom,  
 Joe DeCristofaro

#### *Flight C*

1st Fred Skirde  
 2nd Jim Jensen  
 3rd Doug Miller  
 4th Vinny Rozanskas  
 5th David Croak

#### *Flight B*

1st Butch Shoup  
 2nd Mike Steffens  
 3rd Rob Ledford  
 4th Larry Hill  
 5th Gary Kessler

#### *Flight A*

1st Phil Marquis  
 2nd Bill Schmit  
 3rd Eli Henrie  
 4th Dave Schmit

*June 28*

#### *Flight E*

1st Mark Giarratano  
 2nd George Madonna, Richard Apt  
 3rd Steve Galambos  
 4th James Busby, Kenny Duncan

#### *Flight D*

1st Bill DeSonier, Glenn Riggs  
 2nd Tom Merges  
 3rd Bob McElfresh, Joe DeCristofaro  
 4th Dave Walstrom

#### *Flight C*

1st Don Schultz, Wally Armistead  
 2nd Mark Ethridge, Jim Jensen  
 3rd Tom Fitzgerald, Fred Skirde

#### *Flight B*

1st Charles Marlow  
 2nd Matt Dunne  
 3rd Gary Kessler  
 4th Jon Freyer  
 5th Raj Agrawal, Mike Steffens,  
 Mike Benowitz

#### *Flight A*

1st Phil Marquis, Dave Bushman  
 2nd Dave Schmit  
 3rd Bob Bengen, Eli Henrie  
 4th Steve Gilbert, Steve Hesser

#### *July 5*

#### *Flight E*

1st Rich Richardson  
 2nd Mike Corcoran, Kenny Duncan  
 3rd George Madonna  
 4th Wayne Wharton, Neil Miller

#### *Flight D*

1st Bob McElfresh  
 2nd Tom Merges, John McMullen  
 3rd James Busby  
 4th Cliff Cresswell, Joe Rook

#### *Flight C*

1st Vinny Rozanskas  
 2nd Fred Skirde, Tim Bessey  
 3rd Jim Jensen, Mark Ethridge,  
 Wally Armistead

#### *Flight B*

1st Doug Miller  
 2nd Larry Hill  
 3rd Gary Kessler  
 4th Jim Mathews, Mike Benowitz,  
 Raj Agrawal

#### *Flight A*

1st Chris Hughes, Bill Schmit  
 2nd Steve Hesser  
 3rd Tom Parko, Dave Schmit  
 4th Don Daily

#### *July 12*

#### *Flight E*

1st Richard Ferguson  
 2nd Joe Robinson  
 3rd Richard Apt, Mike Corcoran  
 4th Paul Spoutz, Neil Miller

#### *Flight D*

1st Steve Galambos  
 2nd Bob McElfresh  
 3rd John McMullen, Tom Merges  
 4th James Busby, Blair Kittleson,  
 Phil Haas

#### *Flight C*

1st Jim Jensen  
 2nd Phil Corliss  
 3rd Tom Fitzgerald, Wally  
 Armistead, Nick Streno  
 4th Scott Cole, Tim Bessey

#### *Flight B*

1st Gary Kessler  
 2nd Jim Pardikes  
 3rd Rob Ledford, Brian Bucenec,

Raj Agrawal, Doug Miller

#### *Flight A*

1st Dave Schmit  
 2nd Chris Hughes  
 3rd Casey Williams  
 4th Bill Schmit, Steve Hesser, Eli  
 Henrie, Frank Leydens, Steve  
 Gilbert

### **Hand (Knee) and Foot**

Also known as Tripleplay, this is a variation of Canasta. Fun and easy to learn. We meet every Tuesday, 12:30–4 pm, Mountain View Room. Call Linda Serio, 303-396-2218, or just show up.

### **Mah Jongg/Monday**

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

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

### **Mah Jongg/Tuesday**

We meet 1–4 pm every Tuesday, Blue Spruce Room. All players are welcome. Please have the latest Mah Jongg League card. Social game: we do not play for money, only glory.

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

### **Mexican Train Dominoes**

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

### **Pickleball**

The HG Pickleball Club plays daily according to our schedule found by scrolling down under the Home tab at <https://www.hgpickle.org/>. We offer a "Pickleball Lite" program for beginning and intermediate players. Times are

published weekly by email, so let Ron Hileman (ronhileman@gmail.com) know if you would like to receive our updated information each week. The club provides loaner paddles and pickleballs.

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

### Ping Pong

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

### Poker/Men's & Texas Hold 'em

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

### Rummikub

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

### Square Dance

Heather Twirlers invites all square dancers to join us every first and third Wednesday, 7–9 pm, Sandburg Auditorium. The cost is \$7. If you are an experienced dancer, a newer dancer or feel 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, 303-750-6632.

### Tai Chi

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

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

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

### Tennis Club

Our play times for May are Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. Check the bulletin

board at the courts for play times, or call Wendy at 303-587-9797.

Please come out and give us a try. We welcome all levels of players. We offer free lessons, and training on the ball machine.

Our next get-together is our first-Tuesday monthly meeting at the Rendezvous Restaurant. This will be Tuesday, Aug. 6, 5 pm. We are friendly and welcoming. – Wayne Wharton, secretary

### Time4Tap Dance Group

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



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# HG Clubhouse Events

## Clubhouse Hours

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

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Acting Clubhouse Manager Julie Racich

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

### Hippie Dance

Saturday, August 10, 6:30-8:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Reservations required.

Cost: \$16, \$18 at door

Stop by the Activities Desk, located in the Clubhouse lobby, to reserve your spot or call 303-751-1811 ext. 5.

Time to get your peace beads on and come dance the night away with Cyndy & Bryce. Light refreshments will be served, and beer/wine will be available for purchase. There will be a costume contest so wear your favorite tie-dye outfit.

### Active Minds: Women of Denver History

Wednesday, August 14, 2-3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

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

The city of Denver was shaped by the efforts of many great people. Join Active Minds as we focus on the women of Denver and their contributions to the city and the state. We will cover some familiar names as well as some lesser known figures as we trace the impact of these women and their place in history.

### Sip and Paint with Kaitlyn

Thursday, August 8, 2pm, Arts & Crafts Room

COST: \$20, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5 or stop by the Activities Desk.

Come to the clubhouse to paint, sip wine or non – alcoholic beverages and socialize with your neighbors. The price includes painting equipment and wine. We are limiting the number of participants to 25. We will be attempting to hold one a month.

### Xfinity/Comcast Bill Review

Wednesday, August 21, noon- 3 pm, Library Sign-up sheets are now available. There are 10, 20 minutes slots.

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

### Kathleen Arnold: Colorado Mafia

Thursday, August 22, 1-2pm, Sandberg Auditorium FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5 or stop by the Activities Desk

Colorado's organized crime history begins like an old wild west drama. In Denver, gamblers and con artists reigned for 5 decades but by 1920, a new criminal element came to Colorado, the Italian Mafia.

### Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co.

Tuesday, August 27, 2:15 – 3:15 pm, Clubhouse Lobby

They will be selling Nuts, Seeds, Snacks, Candies, Dried Fruits, and Trail Mix

### Upcoming Trip:

#### Colorado Rockies Senior Day Trip

Thursday, September 26

Cost: \$38 Includes seat and chartered bus to Coors Field and back

Time: Bus leaves HG at 11:15 am

Reservations: Register at the clubhouse or call 303-751-1811 ext 5

We are heading to Coors Field to watch the Rockies beat the St Louis Cardinals!

Bus will pick up residents in the parking lot between buildings 244 and 243, at 13931 E Marina Drive at 11:15 am and return to Heather Gardens around 5:15 pm.

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## Insight in our Capital Reserves

In a series of “Insight articles” you will receive insight about the status of our Capital Reserve Funds and be updated about the progress of current Capital Expenditures projects and the planning process of the projects in 2025. The goal is to “show your money at work”.

\*Note: For this article John Recob’s report “Heather Gardens’ Capital Reserve Funds”, from August 23, 2023, and updated September 21, 2023, was used.

### Capital Reserves Projects in 2024

In the 2024 HGA budget a total of \$7.7 Million for new Capital Reserves programs was approved by the Board. In the insert on this page, you can find a list of the 9 biggest planned projects (>\$100,000) for 2024.

Parking Structure Maintenance	\$2,600,000
Roof replacements 4 buildings	\$2,100,000
Exterior Painting	\$ 703,000
Equipment	\$ 315,000
Concrete/Handrails	\$ 250,000
Boilers/other	\$ 223,000
Carpet and Carpet Base Replacement	\$ 222,000
Elevator cab renovation	\$ 196,000
Building facia	\$ 124,000
Contingency	\$ 330,000
	<b>\$7,063,000</b>

The 9 biggest/most expensive projects for 2024

We want to give you more insight in this and future *Heather’n Yon* articles about the progress, the successes and the challenges regarding these 9 budgeted Capital Expenditures.



Repair in progress to improve the drainage issues which were causing water leakage in Parking Structure 1 potentially damaging the walls and foundation.

### Parking Structure Maintenance Project 2024

This year and last year you maybe have noticed activity in and around the 4 open Parking Structures close to the 4-story Alpha Buildings. A multi-year repair program is under way, and much progress has been made during the last couple of months. All the stairs that access the second story of the Parking Structures have now been replaced, and several complex concrete repairs have

been completed. The picture on this page shows the work in progress to solve some of the drainage issues in Parking Structure 1. This project is causing significant inconvenience for the residents using these parking structures and costs a lot of money. But these repairs are necessary, and this project is a perfect example of a Capital Expenditures project, paid for out of our HGA Capital Reserve Fund. The Parking Structure Maintenance Project, when completed, will extend the foreseeable life of the 4 parking structures and help to protect the value of our properties.

### Why is it important to have a Capital Reserve Fund?

In the July Project Insight article we explained that our Capital Reserve Funds can be considered HGA’s savings account, which is used for major capital expenses. But why is it important to build these funds over time and to have sufficient funds in the bank? Imagine HGA had to pay for the parking structures repairs planned for 2024, which will cost \$2.6 million, and we didn’t have a Capital Reserve Fund in place? When there are inadequate Capital Reserve funds, there are only bad options for the board like collecting special assessments or borrowing money from external organizations, which is getting more and more costly. But with healthy Capital Reserve Funds in place, we avoid the boards having to scramble to find the money when the big expensive repairs and replacement projects need to be done. Additionally, with a healthy Capital Reserve Fund in place the value of your property is protected, because we are budgeting for planned major repairs or replacement, and major upgrades or improvements. In this way we are responsibly budgeting for unexpected urgent expenses that may arise in the future.

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

In case you want to stay informed about our Capital Expenditures we have some tips for you: First tip: You can stay directly informed by attending the monthly Joint Capital Programs Subcommittee meetings where you as a resident can actively participate by following the discussions, asking questions and making suggestions. These Subcommittee meetings are announced via Pitera and in *Heather ’n Yon*. Second tip: The best way to stay informed regarding the Capital Reserves is to participate in the yearly Budget Workshop meetings. In the next Project Insight article, more details will be provided about the 2025 Capital Reserve work sessions, which will occur in September during the yearly Budget Workshop meetings.

-CECC/Project Insight

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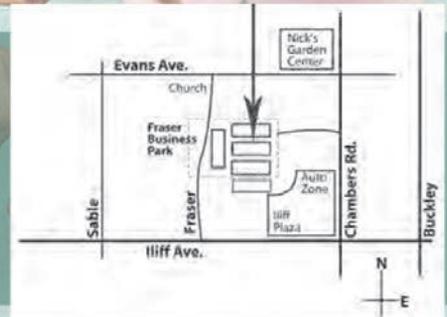


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## "It's a hoot. It's fabulous. It's fun." Rave Reviews for New Class: Drum Fit Fun



"It involves the whole body and mind, and it's a lot of fun," enthuses a participant in the recent Drum Fit Fun class at HG.

"We had a great time, we laughed, we just let loose to the music and had fun," says another resident.

"Those drumsticks are a way to get out any aggression and relax, while getting some exercise."

Premiering as a pop-up class to determine interest, the rave reviews that Drum Fit Fun garnered assure Drum Fit Fun a spot on HG's Fall Class Schedule.

According to Donna Stein, instructor, Drum Fit Fun increases range of motion and mobility, improves cognitive function, boosts cardiovascular health,

**"Those drumsticks are a way to get out any aggression and relax, while getting some exercise."**

enhances mood, and reduces stress. Donna's experience in management at senior centers and leading active 55+ individuals in fun and exercise, spans more than 30 years. A Parks and Recreation Management graduate, she managed senior centers in Longmont and Golden. She also managed a Del Webb Community in Nevada.

"I love to see so many people participating in activities that help them stay younger longer through socialization and continual education," Donna noted.

For more information, contact the Clubhouse Front Desk at 303-751-1811, X5.

-Patricia McLaughlin, B215

## What is a Quilt of Valor?

A Quilt of Valor is an award, not a gift. It is an heirloom quality quilt made as an expression of our gratitude for our veterans' service to our country and we hope it will become a legacy to the veterans, and their families, of the sacrifices they endured during and after their service to our country.

**For Heather Gardens residents**, you may: Nominate yourself, or someone you know to receive a Quilt of Valor, either:

- visit [QOVF.org/Nominations-Awards](http://QOVF.org/Nominations-Awards) and complete a nomination form
- or
- contact Heather Gardens resident Carolyn Morris: [motoringmorris@gmail.com](mailto:motoringmorris@gmail.com) or 303.885.7807

- You may also contact the QOVF Colorado State Coordinator & Front Range QOV group leader, Sandra Lazaroff: [sandra.lazaroff@qovf.org](mailto:sandra.lazaroff@qovf.org)

**Do you sew?** Would you like to help make a quilt (you don't have to be a quilter) to award to one of our many Veteran residents? Please reach out to Carolyn Morris to find out how you can help. We are excited to establish a partnership between the local QOVF volunteer group, Front Range QOV, and Heather Gardens to set up a series of award ceremonies where we will recognize and thank our veterans with their own Quilt of Valor.

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### FOR SALE – 14050 E. Linvale Pl. #603 - \$300,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1200 sq. ft. Somerset A Dinette – Beautiful top floor unit with views of the golf course! New paint and newer carpet! Updated kitchen with new Core-Tec floors. New hall bath floors too. Comfortable living room & dining room.



### FOR SALE – 3282 S. Heather Gardens Way - \$375,000

3 bed / 4 bath 2034 fin. sq. ft. South Townhome – Great opportunity to make this home your own. Comfortable living room, dining room, & kitchen. Spacious primary bed + 2 guest beds. Finished basement. Quiet location on greenbelt.



### FOR SALE – 13850 E. Marina Dr. #406 - \$399,000

3 bed / 3 bath 1876 sq. ft. Seville AB – Beautiful, spacious Executive unit with mountain views! Remodeled kitchen w/updated cabinets, granite counters & pantry. Formal dining room & living room. 2 master suites & 2 lanais.



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

2 bed / 2 bath 1560 sq. ft. Somerset F – Spectacular mountain views & endless sunlight from beautifully remodeled end unit! Vinyl plank floors & new paint. Updated cabinets, slab granite counters & breakfast island in kitchen. 2 lanais.

**SOLD – 13961 E. Marina Dr. #313**

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### FOR RENT – 13601 E. Marina Dr. #104 - \$1900/month

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# Letters continued

Wednesday, I was pleasantly surprised by the number of residents enjoying the patio ambiance. There is a wide array of food options available, presented by our new chef, which showcases a commitment to providing for a diverse menu selection at reasonable prices.

The patrons seemed to relish the music and cheerful atmosphere and it is right in our back yard. Credit is due to the Directors of the Metropolitan District and the Restaurant Committee for their proactive changes. Last year, when HGMD assumed their roles they inherited a restaurant in need of revitalization, which they promptly addressed by enhancing the operating hours and revamping the menu.

Therefore, instead of marching to the drum of RECALL, it is prudent to acknowledge the commendable progress achieved under the stewardship of the Metropolitan District directors. Gratitude is extended to these individuals for steering the restaurant toward its current positive trajectory. Heather Gardens residents wanted change, they voted for change and it looks like change has happened to the Rendezvous.  
-Debbie Parker, 223

### **Heather and Yon,**

This is an open invitation to all Heather Gardens residents. Please join the Green Team on Saturday, September 7 at 4PM on E Marina Drive at the newly erected bat houses for our ribbon cutting ceremony. There are 4 of them along the fence across from Buildings 223 and 224 just NE of Seville. This will be our official "The bat houses are open for business" celebration. It's been more than a yearlong construction process and we are hoping many bats will soon be in residence. Join us, please.  
-Jennifer May, 204

### **Heather 'n Yon,**

I would like to comment on the HGMD Proposed Organization Chart that was part of the HGMD Dispute Resolution Proposal dated 13 June 2024.

The proposed budget for the Administration section is a duplication of employees that are currently employed by HGA. The district manager is also a duplication of employees. The total for these line items is \$422,500. HGMD is proposing to charge HGA \$498,750 a year for rent of their portion of the clubhouse. HGMD states that this money will help offset the FTEs listed above for administration that were not included in the 2024 budget. However, HGA will be incurring this expense which will be added to your HOA dues each year.

The rental cost combined with the duplication of employees' cost is a total of \$921,250. That is an increase in our HOA dues of approximately \$384 per year per household.

What do you call a parade of rabbits hopping backwards? A receding hare-line.  
-David Crum, CP4

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**Overhead @ HG**  
*Old pets, news pets,  
inanimate pets*

**Mary Hafka**

Since putting down an old, sedentary cat last year, it's been a bit of a shock to my system to now share my home with two young felines. I'd forgotten how different it is to have youthful animals about the house.

Much decorative crockery has been broken since the boys moved in. Other discouraging noises occur throughout the night, the source of which I often don't discover until days later, when I run across shards, shreds and overturned objects strewn in unlikely places.

The young bucks sometimes gang up on my dog, who is no spring chicken. I have an impressive array of animal beds located on both levels of the house. Still, although the dog wanders from room to room, looking for a vacant bed in which to lounge, there always seems to be a cat in possession of every bed she approaches.

I'm not sure how this can be. I have many plush beds, and only two cats. The math doesn't work out, but somehow, my weary dog can never find an empty bed to rest her furry head. I suspect the cats keep moving, just to foil her.

As it happens, I've discovered that "beloved pets" don't always take the form of actual, breathing things. I have a friend who is a worse clothes horse than I ever was. She continually complained about having no money, yet she could drop hundreds of dollars, per store, at multiple locations during a shopping trip, bolstered by the simple premise that she owed it to the man in her life – and, indeed, to the world – to always look her best.

Spelunking in her walk-in closet was a terrifying experience, as it was always stuffed so full of clothes and footwear that one ran the risk of never finding one's way out. The clothes blocked out all the light, so trekking around was hazardous.

While excavating in her boudoir, one day, I came across some shoes that no older woman should wear, unless

she reserved a permanent suite at her local hospital. I remember asking my pal if we shouldn't donate the shoes to our local thrift store, but she wouldn't hear of it. She replied she liked to keep clothes and shoes "as pets," even if she could no longer wear them.

Men do this, too, but their pets seem to take the form of mechanical objects. These often are power tools. Some feel fondly about their golf clubs. Others worship their boats.

Years ago, when I was relocating from CP1 to CP6, I ran into a guy I'd known for years, but now was going to be a neighbor, just a few doors over. I hadn't even closed on my new house yet, but he cornered me, and pitched the idea that he would pay me so much per month, to park his classic Porsche in my garage. He already had two everyday vehicles at his place, but I only had one car. In this way, his beloved Porsche would be close to him.

I agreed to the plan readily enough, but it all got a bit more complicated as time progressed. He didn't care for the tools hanging on wall pegs in my garage, as they could fall and ruin his beautiful paint job. Tools got relocated.

Once, I apparently drove away and left my garage door open, exposing the Porsche to vandals, tramps and thieves. I soon heard about this, and learned to be more mindful when exiting.

At some point, he created a masking-tape silhouette on the garage floor, delineating what portion of floor space belonged to his beloved car. Various devices for keeping his Porsche buffed and beautiful began appearing.

My Porsche-loving neighbor told me the story of an earlier time, when he owned two classic Porsches. The second one was for his wife, so the two could take the high-performance babes to a track and race them.

My neighbor admitted he loved his own Porsche more than the one he bought for his wife. His was nicer.

He further admitted that he bought her her own Porsche because he didn't want her driving his. By the time I moved to CP6, he was down to one Porsche again. I don't think his wife was as attached her Porsche as he was to his, and it went away.

Years later, his Porsche went away,

too, and I got the other half of my garage back. He assured me I'd have no problem finding another renter, as lots of guys in HG have extra cars that needed garaging. I debated, but decided against sheltering another classic car. I couldn't take the pressure.

I tend to get attached to my cars, too – some more than others. My first car ever was a little, red Pinto hatchback. I happily drove it for years, and am pleased to report that the gas tank never burst into flames.

When I eventually sold it, and got a new car, I remember looking out my bedroom window, and watching the new owner drive my Pinto away. And feeling a little weepy. They say you never forget your first one.

The word "pets" isn't too far from the word "pests." As someone who lives near an HG lake, I'm happy to report that there seemed to be fewer mosquitoes with which to contend this summer. Mosquitoes are a big deal with me, as they disturb my domestic tranquility.

I'm one of those people that mosquitoes love. I'm fairly sure that, whenever I venture outside, the chief mosquito herald blows his trumpet, to summon the winged teeming masses from miles around.

But they weren't so bad this summer. I'd like to think it's because of the bat houses, which were erected earlier in the spring, and will be dedicated (to what, I'm not sure) in September.

I'm unclear how many bat families have moved into our local public housing, but the towering edifices seem to have done the trick. Perhaps their simple presence was intimidating enough to encourage mosquitoes to get out of Dodge.

So let me close with a word or two about my adopted pets – the HG bats. I plan to conduct a Welcome Wagon for them if and when they move into the neighborhood. I'll bake them a mosquito casserole, thereby killing two birds with one stone – eliminating a few more mosquitoes (hundreds, one hopes) while enticing the new neighbors to our neck of the woods. We all have our little eccentricities. Trying to corral more bats into HG is clearly one of mine.

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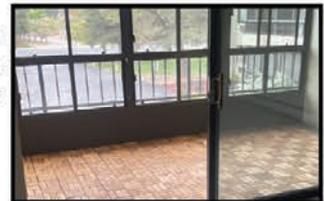
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