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**November 2025**  
Vol. 39, No. 10

Heather Gardens  
Community Magazine

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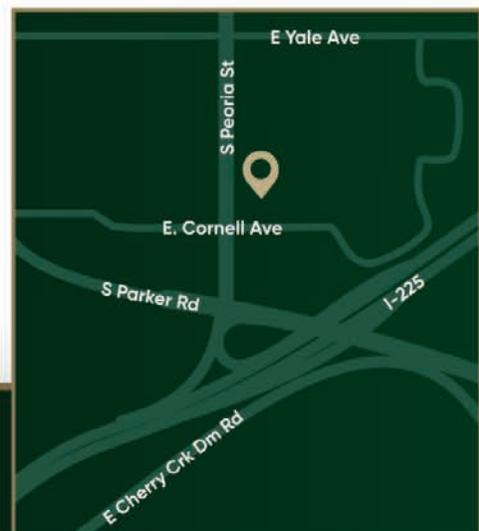
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THANKSGIVING!**  
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# Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Files 2024 Audit and Adopts 2026 Budget

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District hit some significant milestones this month, following a tumultuous year marked by a recall election, a complete board turnover, and the dismissal of a contentious lawsuit against the Heather Gardens Association. The Board of Directors met four times in October, and President David Kennedy indicated that additional meetings will be needed next month as the district tackles some longstanding issues.

At a special meeting October 1, 2025, the board unanimously accepted the long-delayed 2024 audit, prepared by Rubin Brown. The audit, which gives a clean opinion, was filed on September 30, 2025.

Treasurer Bill Archambault reported that there were some issues to be resolved, as detailed in the auditor's management letter. Archambault and Vice President Steve Stratton will meet with Heather Gardens Management to review the management letter. The full audit will be posted on the Heather Gardens website for the public to view. It's unclear at this time whether the management letter will be shared with the public.

On October 9, 2025, the board held a public hearing and adopted a resolution approving the 2026 budget. The board rejected a motion to reduce dues in the capital revenue portion of the budget and approved a motion to increase golf rates for the nine-hole course by \$2 for non-residents and \$1 for

residents. The budget is posted on the Heather Gardens website, in the resources section, for the public to view. At its regular monthly meeting October 23, 2025, the board approved a letter to be sent to Community Resource Services of Colorado requesting a mutual termination of the contract for accounting services, effective at the close of business on December 31, 2025. The services currently being provided by Community Resource Services will be handled by Heather Gardens staff moving forward.

The board revisited the issue of liability for damage to a resident's car caused by a fallen tree. This item was tabled at September's meeting so that further research could be done to determine ownership of the tree. Archambault reported that, according to an audit done in 2018, the tree was not on district property. In addition, both Archambault and Kennedy maintained that the district, as a government entity, has immunity and thus no obligation to compensate the resident for her out-of-pocket expenses. The board approved a motion to table the matter indefinitely. Director Linda Savage voted to abstain. Stratton was absent for the discussion and the vote.

Finally, because all of the directors are relatively new to the board, they discussed the need for orientation and training on their roles and responsibilities, as well as the rules governing special districts. Kennedy requested that they convene a special meeting to discuss further, and will look into having someone from the Special Districts Association in attendance to answer questions.

The district's next two monthly meetings have been rescheduled to November 20, 2025, and December 18, 2025, because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

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## HGA Board Finishes Strong in 2025 with Vibrant Plans for 2026

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### Corinne Crum to 2025 Board

Holiday decorations

Clubhouse doors

Parking structure doors/fences

ADA compliant website

Maintenance projects

---

A strong finish to 2025 and vibrant plans in place for 2026 were evident at the Heather Gardens Association Board meeting, Tuesday, October 28 in the Clubhouse.

Key staff positions have been filled, with John Rea returning as General Manager, Valerie Holt joining as Human Resources Manager and an accounting department staffer set to come on board, making

management well equipped to move forward for the new year.

For 2026, current Directors David Baxter and Lee Nicholson will continue on the Board. Additionally, the Board voted to appoint Corinne Crum, CP4, to fill the remainder of the 2025 term left by Director Bradley Archer, due to a heavy business workload.

Board President Sue McBeth clarified that Crum's appointment runs to the end of 2025 and anyone who will consider nominating themselves for the vacancy beginning January 1, 2026, must apply no later than November 21. Applications go to the Management Office at the Clubhouse.

On the committee front, Sid Vollema was voted to the role of Chair of the Ad Hoc Water Conservation Committee. He will report to the Board through the Maintenance Committee.

**Holiday decorations:** With the holidays approaching, it was noted that many HG residents take pride in the decorations around their buildings and grounds and are reporting they would like to put up the lights and other ornamental objects earlier than usual. Typically,

decorations up go right after Thanksgiving, and there have been requests for moving this date back to a week prior to Thanksgiving. Director John Harvey, Chair of the Architectural Control Committee and other Board members wholeheartedly agreed to the earlier date.

**Boiler inspections:** Director Mike Pula, Finance & Budget Chair, noted that the boiler inspections conducted by the Aurora Fire Department earlier in the month went extremely well. He explained that HG not only received accolades from Aurora Fire about how well maintained the boilers are, but furthermore that the inspection was completed in one and half days, rather than the four days allocated.

**Handicapped doors at the Clubhouse:** David Kennedy, President of the HGMD Board, explained that there may be good news about restoring the doors to reliable working order. According to a thorough review by Maintenance, it appears that the automatic functions may be fixable, rather than requiring replacement of the electronics in all the doors.

It was noted that there were malfunctions with the doors when the new outdoor Clubhouse lighting was installed but that issue was rectified months ago.

**Walls in the parking structures:** Subsequent to work being done in Parking Structures #2 and #4, the question of putting up divider walls or chain link fencing is being discussed. There were 12 walls that had to be torn down when construction began, and engineers recommend that walls not be put up to avoid penetrating the structure and impeding adequate ventilation. The issue will receive more study and will be brought back to the Board in November.

**ADA website compliance:** The Board approved the purchase of AccessiBe software for ADA compliance for the Heather Gardens website, as recommended by the Community Engagement & Communication Committee (CECC). Annual amount is \$490 for routine UI accessibility and engaging professional remediation add-on at \$3,990 for one year to fix documents while staff develops the capability to produce ADA compliant content. Motion passed.

**Roof consulting:** A motion was passed to award TechniScan Consultants the contract to provide roof consulting services, including a moisture study of 12 four story residential buildings and assessment of five metal roofs at the upper garage units of the parking structures. This will include a visual examination of the roof surfaces, perimeters, rooftop equipment/ penetrations and related components, and review of existing drainage conditions. The four story building roofs were replaced between 2011 and 2015 with foam roofs.

Foam roofs are not a recommended roof application for Colorado, considering that Colorado experiences all four seasons and sometimes drastic weather conditions. Contract cost is \$11,100 with a change order of \$1,110 for a total project cost of \$12,210.

**Window cleaning:** The 2025 Window Cleaning Project at residential buildings includes cleaning the exterior of the common area windows of 28 multi-story residential buildings. The remaining seven residential buildings will receive exterior window cleaning of the common area windows and exterior cleaning of all unit windows including bedroom, living room and kitchen windows. The project does not include cleaning of any lanai windows. The contract amount is \$9,115 with a change order of \$912 for a total project cost of \$10,027.

The next HGA Board regular meeting is the fourth Tuesday of the month, November 25, at 1 pm in the Clubhouse Board Room. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or by Zoom.



The poster features a logo at the top left with a green square containing a stylized plant. To its right, the text "Heather Gardens" is written in a purple serif font. Below this is a circular graphic of colorful human figures holding hands, with the text "Heather Gardens TOWN HALL MEETING" overlaid in the center. At the bottom, the text "Tuesday, Dec 2 • 3:00pm Sandberg Auditorium" is displayed in a purple sans-serif font.

## Meet the 2026 Board Candidates-- Baxter & Nicholson Share Their Goals

In looking ahead to the 2026 Board of Directors at Heather Gardens, Meet the Candidates events were held Friday evening, October 17 and Saturday morning, October 18 at the Clubhouse.

David Baxter and Lee Nicholson, both current members of the HGA Board, have self-nominated and were there to introduce themselves, deliver brief remarks on their goals and qualifications, and answer questions from residents in the audience and on Zoom.

Moderator Martha Karnopp, B214, explained that with only two candidates for the two regular Board openings, there will be no election except to accept or reject the Proposed 2026 Heather Gardens Budget. Both Baxter and Nicholson will sit on the 2026 Board. A third Board vacancy was created recently by the resignation of a current director, with that opening to be appointed by the Board.

Attendance in person and on Zoom on Friday evening was 13 people, with similarly lackluster attendance at the Saturday morning meeting.

Both candidates expressed hope that going forward more HG residents will volunteer for Board service, with Baxter stating that his goal is to have at least two people competing for each Board vacancy.

### Information from the candidates:

#### David Baxter

- A resident of HG for seven years, B217, with volunteer service and Board service for the past four years.
- Current Chair of the Security, Emergency Preparedness, Community Resources Committee.

- Background includes a business career focused on analytical thinking, organizational clarity, accountability, technology insight, project management, and collaborative leadership--which Baxter noted, "are skills that align with challenges we face at Heather Gardens."
- As an HGA Board member, he explained he has learned how to listen and balance differing viewpoints with the outcome of turning ideas into practical actions.
- Baxter's goals include leading with transparency and accountability for the purposes of operational efficiency, community engagement and strategic plans.
- He stated that what he is most proud of as a Board member is the launch of the Aging Strong at Heather Gardens Club, which is a resident led program for providing information on independent living and valuable community resources.

#### Lee Nicholson

- Nicholson has lived here for four years, CP3, with interests in meeting residents "and their dogs."
- Currently, she heads the HGA Board Civic Affairs Committee. She is also a member of the Maintenance Committee.
- With a focus on good communication, being thorough and seeing a project through from beginning to end, Nicholson's professional background includes selling medical equipment, computerized parts ordering, payroll, accounting basics, client conflict resolution, and crisis intervention.
- Honored to be part of the Board, she sits in on most of the committee meetings across all of Heather Gardens to gain insight into the needs and views of residents.
- Nicholson's goals include working as a team member and being part of change in the community. She emphasized that she places great value on all the residents, managers, committee members and Board members.

The Tennis Club decked out in their Halloween best



Photo by Janis Farrell

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## HGMD Board President Report

David Kennedy

October has been a very eventful month in Heather Gardens. There have been many highs and lows. One of the lowest of lows just occurred: the passing of our favorite “Cookie Lady,” Betty Bergeron. Betty has been a Heather Gardens “fixture” for the past six years my wife and I have lived here. Betty helped me during my tenure as AR of our building to resolve numerous disputes among neighbors. She was famous for her cookie diplomacy. Betty seemed to be everywhere and doing everything: ARO president, community advocate, advisor, critic, supporter of the underdog, champion of the

virtuous, and forever the Cookie Master. Betty will be missed by the many who knew her.

One of the highest of highs this past month was the return to Heather Gardens of our past General Manager: Jon Rae. My personal relationship with Jon was (is) based on a professional and business relationship that was cultivated over the three years I served as a board member of HGA. He earned my respect during that time as a person and as a leader through his empathy with his staff, his leadership by example, his tolerance for the intolerable (until it was not), and his vision for the future of Heather Gardens.

Jon cemented my respect for him in a little gesture one winter not long after I first got to know him when serving as an AR of our building. We had heavy snow and the staff were working extremely hard to clear the walks and drives. It was late in the day and staff were working elsewhere on the property, but we had a blockage in front of our three buildings, which prevented some of our residents with disabilities from getting to their cars. I caught Jon, explained our plight, and asked him if he could dispatch a couple of staff to clear a pathway. Jon explained that the crews were busy elsewhere, so instead of brushing me off or telling me that they would get to it when they could, he jumped in his vehicle, drove to our cul-du-sac, and cleared a path for us. Jon exhibited his caring for his community and his example of going beyond what is required.

Another high is that this month has seen the beginning of a major shift in HGMD’s administration. We have officially given Community Resource Services (CRS) of Colorado notice of termination of our contract with them through a letter of mutual agreement to terminate effective December 31, 2025. We are forced to continue using CRS for a limited amount of time following December 31 due to the necessity to close our books at year’s end and beyond for auditing purposes. However, we will be withdrawing accounting activity from CRS going forward from now, on a controlled basis, as HGA’s accounting staff can accommodate the change. There is an increase in HGA accounting staff in the works, and as training progresses, they will absorb more responsibility. This is how the transition to CRS should have been planned and staged in the first place but it was not. The transition back to HGA accounting services and staff should save the community several hundred dollars next year.

Another high for the community is the employment of Valarie Holt as our new Human Resource Manager. She joined the staff just in time to celebrate our great Heather Gardens’ staff and crews in the appreciation luncheon. We welcome Valerie and look forward to the support she will bring to both HGA and HGMD.

Another high is the reception and great attendance at our Town Hall meetings. If you have not yet attended a session, I highly recommend that you do so. It is a great opportunity to get to know your community leaders and to get questions or concerns of yours addressed. It is interactive, it is personal, and it is informational in real time and another communication avenue that attempts to fulfill our promise of “transparency.”

Here is wishing everyone a great autumn and more “Highs” and fewer “Lows” until next time.



## HGA Board President Report

Sue McBeth

### Happy Thanksgiving!

The wonderful holiday of Thanksgiving is upon us. This is a time to express our gratitude for all our blessings. I ran across this quote that describes where we are now at Heather Gardens: “Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving.”

The two Boards are riding a tandem bicycle, and we keep moving forward, pushing toward the final version of the new Management Agreement. Concluding the October 27 meeting with our lawyers,

we are very close to a completed draft version that is ready to share with our residents. Stay tuned for the roll out of meetings where you can give the Boards feedback on this important document.

Continuing our forward motion, Valerie Holt is our new Human Resources Manager. She started with us on October 1 and is already making a difference by cleaning up all personnel records and policies and updating the employee handbook. Jon Rea returned as the General Manager on October 13. He has met one-on-one with all the managers to receive updates from them for the functioning of their individual areas. Jon will be working closely with both Boards as he puts together plans for the ongoing development and management of Heather Gardens. This returns us to a full contingent of managers working to keep Heather Gardens the wonderful community we enjoy.

### Town Hall Meeting

At the October Town Hall meeting, John Recob gave an informative presentation about the Capital Projects that are planned for 2026 for both the Metro District and Heather Gardens. A major accomplishment will be the completion of roof replacements for the six-story buildings and a pilot roof replacement project for the four-story buildings. Three topics surfaced from questions asked at the meeting, and answers are as follows:

#### 1. Elevators and the frequency of their breaking down.

After talking with the maintenance manager, it has been determined that we as residents can be our own worst enemy. Things to consider for keeping our elevators running smoothly:

- DO NOT bang into the doors with grocery carts and mobility scooters. This damages the door sensors, and they start to malfunction.
- DO NOT stand in front of the door to keep it open. This also damages the sensors.
- USE the door hold (DH) button on the panel to hold the door open when needed; holding the door open by any other means damages the sensors and leads to malfunctions.

#### 2. Automatic doors, especially at the Clubhouse.

To keep these doors working well:

- USE the push plate to open these doors—this is the correct way to open them.
- DO NOT open the automatic doors manually—this causes them to fail.
- USE the non-automated door when you don't need the door to open on its own for you.

#### 3. ADA compliant parking spaces at the multistory buildings.

This is regulated by the City of Aurora's Unified Development Ordinance section 4.6.3. Required off-street parking for multistory buildings includes:

- General: 1 space per dwelling unit and 1 additional space per 5 dwelling units for guest parking
- Accessible (ADA) parking spaces per dwelling unit parking spaces:
  - o For 1 - 25 parking spaces = 1
  - o For 26 - 50 parking spaces = 2
  - o For 51 - 75 parking spaces = 3
  - o For 76 - 100 parking spaces = 4

As always, feel free to reach out to us with further questions and constructive ideas for improvement. In closing, I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! I give thanks for all the support I receive from the Boards, staff members, and most importantly all of YOU.

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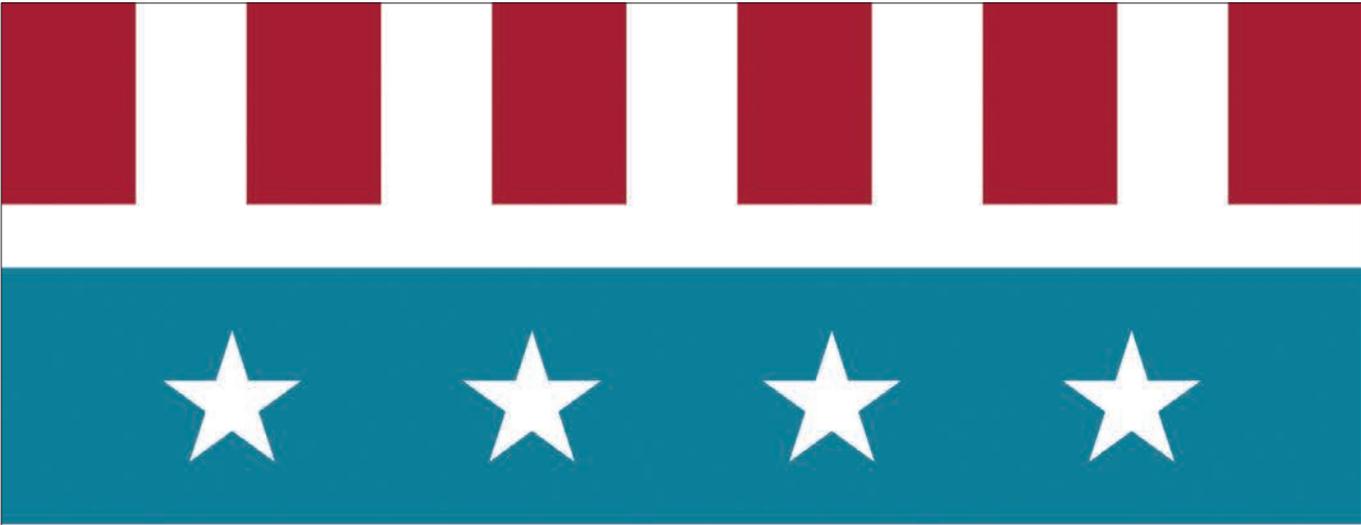


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## A Note from the Editor

Hello  
Heather Gardens!

Thanksgiving is simply defined as “the expression of gratitude.” For most of us, it also means eating and watching football (two of my favorite things!)—but I want to focus on the gratitude part.

A little gratitude can do wonders for the mood. When you practice it, you shift your thoughts away from negative emotions and begin to notice the good things that might otherwise be overlooked.

Recently, our daughter’s car broke down during a road trip in the middle of Utah. Needless to say, it was stressful. Fortunately, we have roadside assistance, and she was able to get back to Denver with the help of some wonderful family friends. Most importantly, she and her travel companion are safe—and now have a good story to tell.

“Taking stock” and finding the silver lining in a crisis isn’t always easy. I’m the first one to admit that. But by making gratitude a part of daily life, we can improve our well-being and create a positive ripple effect throughout our community.

As I look back on 2025, I find myself counting my blessings—both big and small. From my favorite slippers and dinner with my husband and kids last weekend, to the love of family and friends, a warm home, and good health.

I am also deeply thankful to be the editor of *Heather ‘n Yon*—for our amazing staff, the volunteers who help distribute the magazine each month, the support of our advertisers and the warmth and kindness of the Heather Gardens community and staff.

Wishing you all a wonderful November and a Happy Thanksgiving!

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



**“Showing gratitude is one of the simplest yet most powerful things humans can do for each other.”**

**-Randy Pausch**



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## MANAGEMENT

Jon Rea

### A Return to Heather Gardens

As I step back into the role of general manager, my priority over the next 30 days is to fully reimmerse myself in every aspect of our community. This time will be all about reconnecting with residents, meeting one-on-one with staff, and getting up to speed on the projects, events, and priorities already in motion.

My goal during this period is simple; to listen, learn, and truly understand where things stand today at Heather Gardens. By doing that, we can move forward together with a shared sense of clarity, purpose, and teamwork. I will be spending a lot of time out in the community, attending meetings (I've already had the pleasure of visiting with a couple buildings and areas) and sitting in on committee and board sessions. Every conversation is valuable to me, because every voice adds to the strength of Heather Gardens. I want to hear your perspectives, concerns, and ideas.

I do ask for your patience as I settle back in. There's a lot to take in all at once, and honestly, it feels a bit like drinking from a fire hose! I'm committed to making sure every issue and request gets the attention it deserves. Over the next couple of months, I'll also be reviewing ongoing projects and initiatives. It's important that I review what's working well, identify where we can improve, and make sure all our efforts continue to support Heather Gardens' mission: to be a welcoming, active, and well-managed community for everyone who calls it home. I'm confident that together with our Board, committees, residents, and staff, we'll keep building on the success that makes Heather Gardens such a special place to live.

### In Appreciation of Betty Bergeron

As we look ahead to this new chapter, it's also important to take a moment to honor someone whose leadership and kindness have left an unforgettable mark on our community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Betty Bergeron, former ARO President, whose recent passing is a profound loss for Heather Gardens.

Betty was an exceptional leader and a deeply devoted member of this community. She led with compassion, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to fairness. Throughout her time in service, she spent countless hours supporting residents and staff alike, always ensuring that the needs and voices of our community were heard and respected. And she always made sure to have cookies in hand for everyone....and knew everyone's favorite kind!

But Betty's impact was far beyond her official role. She was a familiar face at nearly every event, a thoughtful voice in every discussion, and a source of encouragement to so many of us. Her steady leadership and genuine care helped strengthen the sense of unity that makes Heather Gardens feel like home.

Though she will be deeply missed, Betty's spirit lives on in the community she helped shape. Her legacy of service, kindness, and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

Thank you for everything and all the cookies! Thank you for always sending a weekly email to uplift and provide levity to the staff!

We will miss you, Betty!

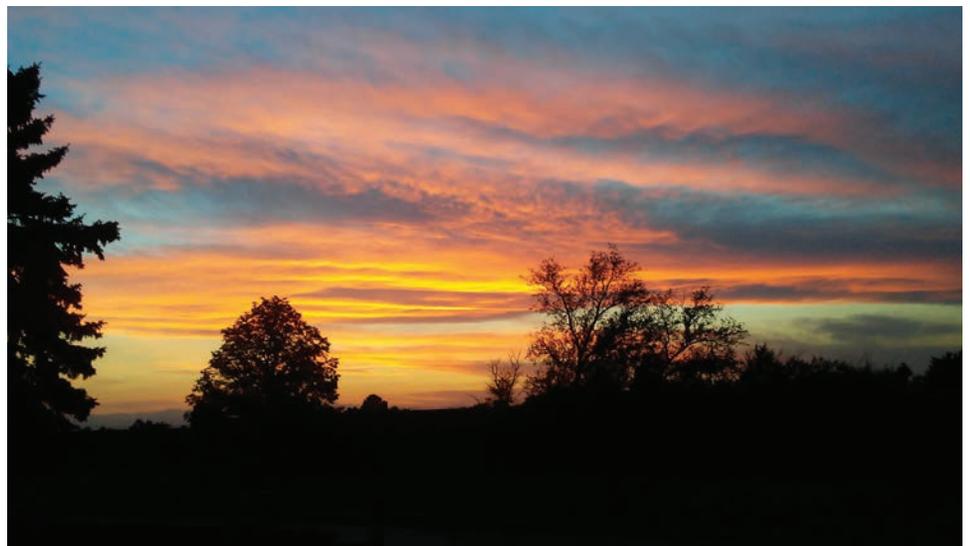


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# New Bocce Courts: From Concept to Completion, "It Took a Village"

Heather Gardens has a new addition to its recreation offerings: bocce (pronounced "botchy"), also known to some as "bocce ball," "bocci," or "boccie." This strategic bowling game is one of the oldest outdoor games in the world, having its origins in ancient Greece. Despite its long history, bocce remains a mystery to many of us. A trio of committed HG residents is out to change that.

Over a span of days in early August, two new bocce courts were built in a stretch of grass between the Clubhouse pool and the golf driving cage. Nobody was prouder to see them take shape than Sharon Weiss, Don Gunnarson, and Jake Flint, who had spent months assembling a proposal that went first to the HG Clubhouse Committee, and then to the HGMD Board, to get the new courts approved.



At the new courts. Front row (l. to r.): Don Gunnarson, Sharon Weiss, Jake Flint. Back row: bocce newbie Dee White, court artisan Sam Thiessen.

**An idea takes hold.** As Sharon Weiss recalls, it was April last spring, during a billiards session at the Clubhouse, when she and Don Gunnarson first talked about getting bocce courts built at Heather Gardens. Both were familiar with the game, and thought new courts would be a hit with the Heather Gardens crowd. The two floated the idea of getting new bocce courts built to their fellow billiard players.

"We asked who would be interested, and there was a great response," Weiss recounts. "And then somehow, Don ran into Jake [Flint], and then their conversation ended up at bocce ball, and that's how it started."

Once the idea took hold, Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint started doing some research. At different Clubhouse events, like the Fitness Fair, they raised the idea of new bocce courts to different people. Eventually, they collected names of over 100 residents who had expressed interest in bringing bocce to the HG community.

The three wanted to get a sense of different court dimensions and materials, so they drove to different

parks and apartment complexes to look at their bocce courts (Weiss laughingly recounts how the manager at one property confidently declared that "No, I've been here two years, and we don't have a bocce ball court," until Weiss pointed out to him the court that was adjacent to the building).

The cost of court materials can vary greatly, the trio discovered; some expensive courts, according to Flint, use "crushed oyster shells" as a bowling surface. Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint favored more cost-effective (but still durable) solutions.

The trio were ready to approach HG management to get the (bocce) ball rolling. "I did not know the process," Gunnarson remarks. "Connie Burns [of the Clubhouse Committee] gave us some guidance."

Weiss and Flint too are quick to credit other members of the Clubhouse Committee, as well as persons involved in HG management, for helping them through the process of assembling a strong proposal to get the courts funded and built.

Part of the proposal cited the number of residents interested in getting new courts, and how those courts would provide "benefits to the community."

Other information for Clubhouse Committee review included a proposed location for the courts, as well as a court construction estimate. For that, Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint reviewed estimates submitted from different companies.

## Where to put new bocce courts?

Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint thought it best that the new courts be built somewhere close to the clubhouse. They looked for a suitable spot.

"We needed a spot where we could have two courts," Weiss recalls. "We looked at the spot where the horseshoe pit is [along the south fence of the tennis courts]. That's not big enough. You could have one court there, [but] there's nothing really for anybody to sit around and watch, you know?"

Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint liked the area between the golf driving cage and the walkway south of the Clubhouse pool. It would allow for two courts of equal size, and would accommodate benches as well as a bulletin board. Flint points out that this "centrally located" spot is close to the restrooms in the Golf Pro Shop, and only a short walk to and from the Rendezvous restaurant.



The new bocce courts being built next to the golf driving cage



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As the proposed court location was adjacent to the golf driving cage, though, the three wanted buy-off from the golf folks.

“We talked to Greg [Kohr] in the Pro Shop,” Weiss recounts. “We said, ‘What do you think?’ and he said, ‘no, go ahead.’”

With Kohr’s blessing, the proposed location of the bocce courts made it to the proposal.

**Choosing a builder for the courts.** Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint analyzed bids from four contractors. Their cost estimates varied greatly. After the three reviewed the different bids, they agreed that only one contractor out of the four—Turfscapes of Colorado—had prepared a detailed, client-friendly estimate, including costs of materials that would be, according to Gunnarson, “durable and require less maintenance.” Turfscapes also seemed genuinely interested in doing the work. As a plus, its estimate was on the lower end, so that’s the contractor they chose to include in their proposal to the Clubhouse Committee.

**It takes a village.** The triad of bocce advocates are quick to credit the many people at Heather Gardens who, at different times, helped them through different stages of the proposal process, among them Juanita Dominguez, Connie Burns, Linda Savage, Steve Stratton, Lary Herkal, and David Kennedy (the trio apologizes for names of persons they missed). The assistance of so many ensured that, when it came time to review the proposal, the Clubhouse Committee had all the information it needed to give the green light.

After Committee approval, the proposal earned final buy-off from the HGMD Board. Because the new bocce courts easily met the “community benefit” standard, the Board was able to use Colorado State Lottery funds for court construction.

**From new courts to club status.** On October 11, in the Aspen/Blue Spruce room of the Clubhouse, Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint led a lively meeting for HG residents interested in learning about the fledgling Bocce Club. It was a full house.

The attendees discussed a range of topics, such as team versus “drop-in” play; structured and open play times; court construction enhancements; and cold weather play. “Club dues” – not yet set, and not to take effect until early 2026 – were also discussed.

Many attendees had never played bocce before, and wanted to know more about the game. Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint answered the questions they could, and said that they would field additional queries via telephone and email.



Flint, Weiss, and Gunnarson (at left) moderate the lively meeting on October 11 about the Bocce Club

The three moderators also noted that work on the court area was ongoing. They acknowledged meeting attendee Sam Thiessen, who’s adding “safety features” to the courts such as steps and guardrails. After the meeting ended, attendees who hadn’t signed the roster upon arrival made sure to provide their contact information. It was clear that resident interest in the new Bocce Club was high for both seasoned players and those new to the game.

**Additional notes:** In earlier conversations, Weiss, Gunnarson, and Flint praised the valuable contributions from Dave Beck and Dean Lux, who are crafting scoreboards and a court bulletin board, respectively, for the bocce court area.

For persons new to the game, “bocce ball clinics” at the new courts are scheduled for 10 a.m. on Mondays, weather permitting.

**Have questions?** The three coordinators of the bocce courts project are available via telephone: Sharon Weiss / 303.263.3820; Don Gunnarson 303.667.2876; Jake Flint / 303.845.0541.

-Bill Kaluza, B232

#### IN MEMORIAM



Betty Bergeron B236  
Carol Gabriel, B219  
Dianna Lonergan, B216  
Lois Pepper, formerly B217  
Peggy Wright, B242

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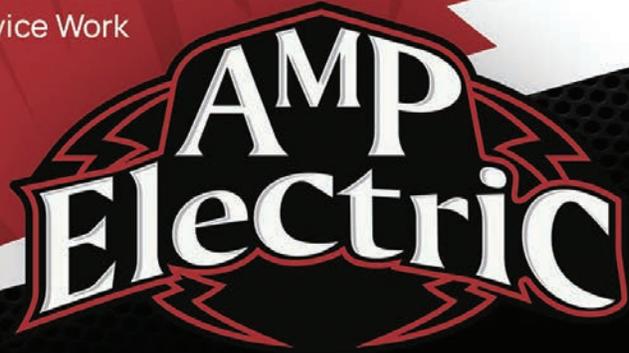
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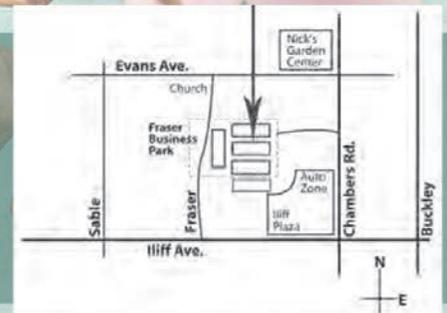
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### Nearly There

Saturday, November 29  
4:30pm

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### Smithtonians

Thursday, December 11  
7:00pm

Welcome in the peace and beauty of the holidays with our favorite Handbell Ensemble.

### John Philip Sousa Band

Wednesday, December 10  
5:30pm

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### Denver Brass Quintet

Wednesday, December 17  
6:30pm

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## LOCAL EVENTS

### Aurora Fox Arts Center

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Saturday, November 15, 6pm

In celebration of the Denver metro area's cultural community, the Aurora Fox Arts Center and the SCFD will host FREE screenings of "The Art of Growth", which recently premiered on RMPBS DT1. Directed and produced by Cynthia Cazanar Garin, "The Art of Growth" tells the compelling story of the power of arts to inspire, educate, and enrich lives. The short film features creative artists including a 6th grade student actor, a beloved science educator, and a legendary dancer and choreographer; and highlights the story behind the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

FREE - Reservations recommended

#### A Christmas Carol

Friday, November 28 - Sunday, December 21

Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 2pm

In a festive mood, the ladies of the Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society mount another assault on the classics with their stage version of "A Christmas Carol." They enthusiastically portray a dizzy array of characters from the Dickensian favorite (and a few which aren't), engineer some novel audience participation while bravely contending with an intrusive PA system, and -- a real Farndale first -- wrap their vocal cords and feet around two original, show-stopping songs.

The Fox will welcome some of the true "grandes dames" of the Colorado theatre community to the stage for this hilarious, nonstop journey into a holiday show gone utterly and madly wrong.

**Tickets and more information:** [www.aurorafoxartscenter.org/](http://www.aurorafoxartscenter.org/)

## FREE Days in November

### Denver Art Museum

**Saturday, November 8**

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### Denver Museum of Nature and Science

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[longmontcolorado.gov/museum](http://longmontcolorado.gov/museum)

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### Four Mile Historic Park

**Friday, November 21**

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715 S. Forest St., Denver

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

### Denver Botanic Gardens

**Friday, November 28**

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## COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

### “Strategic Budgets and Practical Fixes”

This year’s budget workshops were conducted differently by Joint Budget & Finance Committee chairs Mike Pula (Treasurer HGA) and Bill Archambault (HGMD Treasurer). This time Carrie Toennis (HGA Controller) presented a professional and clear departmental high-level overview, followed by managers presenting their 2026 budget proposal. This Insight article will focus on the 2026 budget of the Maintenance department. Richard Barowsky, Maintenance Manager, delivered his budget presentation in true “Barowsky style,” think less “Dry Financial Wizard” and more “Dedicated, Passionate Department Manager.”

### The Maintenance Department 2026 budget proposal

Wages/benefits (excl. charge outs): \$2.07M compared with \$1.87M in 2025 (10.7% increase). Operational Expense: \$1.25M compared with \$1.16M in 2025 (7.8% increase). Headcount: 26 (FTE) compared with 24 in 2025.

Barowsky first explained budgeted operational expenses, mainly for materials and supplies, rose due to annual inflation, supplier information, and anticipated price hikes in copper, aluminum, and other metals. Wages and benefits are budgeted to increase by 4%, with individual amounts dependent on the personnel performance evaluations of each staff member.

Next Barowsky explained why he requested two extra maintenance workers for 2026. He walked all participants of the workshop through the actual activities and challenges his department faces. This year, through the end of September, 9148 maintenance work orders were received. Of that 2145 were plumbing related. And 275 leaks were reported. His 24 maintenance associates must spend more of their time on leaks compared with 2024, which will only rise in the coming years due to our 40- to 50-year old plumbing infrastructure.

Barowsky, as part of the 24 workers, manages the team. Two people handle inventory, one schedules jobs by assigning all work orders to the right person. Of the remaining 20 workers, five specialists are assigned to: Billable work, drain augering, garage door repairs, trash removal, pool maintenance and Clubhouse work. So, on paper Maintenance has 24 associates but in reality, only 15 are available for the daily maintenance work. Of those, one person is assigned to work on emergencies after hours between 3:30 pm – 10:30 pm and weekends and the other 14 are split over nine zones groupings within the 35 multi-story buildings, six Country Place and two Town Home areas. Of course, sick leave and vacation make it even harder to get all the work done, not to mention when there are emergencies during the night.

Barowsky stressed that due to our aging property, the Maintenance Department must be able to keep pace with not only the increasing workload, but the high

expectations of the residents, the demands of Board, and his own demands and standards. Therefore, he requested two additional maintenance workers: One “rover”(working across the nine zones when people are sick, on vacation or are overloaded) and the second one will be dedicated to plumbing jobs.

### Practical Fixes

During his budget presentation, Barowsky mentioned two ways residents can help reduce the Maintenance workload. First, 70% of the elevator emergencies result from residents damaging elevator door sensors with shopping carts, walkers, electric wheelchairs or forcing doors to stay open without using the “Door Hold” button, causing costly repairs. Avoid hitting elevator doors or the black rubber strips around the doors and please use the buttons: Re-open the doors using the “elevator call button” in the hallway or the “open-door button” inside the elevator cab. Do not hold doors with your body but use the “DH” button (Door Hold) inside the cab. Inform delivery personnel and movers of these guidelines.

Second, to reduce workload for automatic door opener repairs in the clubhouse and restaurant, always use the push-button door opener on the right-hand doors when entering the building (left-hand door when exiting) instead of opening the door manually. If there are two doors, use the non-automated (usually the left door when entering) if you choose to open the door manually.

### The 2026 budget work sessions were a success!

The Joint Budget and Finance Committee of the Heather Gardens Association (HGA) and the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) organized the 2026 budget work sessions to ensure transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making when allocating community resources for the coming year. By collaboratively examining and justifying budget proposals with department managers, in this case Richard Barowsky, who with his crew is doing a fantastic job, the HGA and HGMD successfully aligned spending with our community goals while maintaining fiscal responsibility to protect our property value.

-Community Engagement and Communications Committee / Project Insight



Richard Barowsky (with cap) during the budget work session

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# NOVEMBER CALENDAR: CLUBS, RECREATION & EVENTS

<b>Sat 1</b>	Mexican Train Dominoes (every Sat) Tennis Club (every Sat) Ping Pong (every Sat) Karaoke Club	Arts & Crafts Room Tennis Courts Game Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	12-3pm 1pm 2pm 3-5pm
<b>Sun 2</b>	Social Bridge (every Sun)	Skyview Room	1-3:30pm
<b>Mon 3</b>	Men's Bridge (every Mon) Book Club Spanish Club (every Mon) Texas Hold'em (1st Mon) Tennis Club (every Mon) Mah Jongg (every Mon) Game Night (every Mon)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room & Library Library Banquet Room Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room	10am-2pm 10:30am & 1pm 11am-12pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1-4pm 3-5pm
<b>Tue 4</b>	Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues) HG Singers (every Tues) Mah Jongg (every Tues) Ping Pong (every Tues) Sevillians Billiard Club (every Tues)	Mountain View Room Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Banquet Room Billiard Room	12-4pm 1-2:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 5pm 6:30pm
<b>Wed 5</b>	Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Tennis Club (every Wed) Woodshop Club Rummikub (every Wed) CP1 Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	Sunburst Cafe Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Tennis Courts Skyview Room Lodgepole Lounge Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Sandberg Auditorium	12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1pm 1pm 1-3pm 5:30pm 7-9pm
<b>Thu 6</b>	Tai Chi (every Thurs) Optimist Club (1st and 3rd Thurs) TOPS (every Thurs) Bowling League (every Thurs) Time4Tap The Green Team Bunco (1st & 3rd Thurs) Social Bridge (every Thurs) Writer's Club (every Thurs) Ping Pong (every Thurs) Meditation Club Kiwanis Club (1st & 3rd Thurs) Men's Billiards (every Thurs)	Tennis Courts Rendezvous Bar & Grill Blue Spruce Room Araphoe Bowl Sandberg Auditorium Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Skyview Room Game Room Skyview Room Skyview Room Billiards Room	8-11am 8:30am 8:30-9:30am 10am 11am-1pm 10am-12pm 1-3:30pm 1-3:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 4pm 6pm 7pm



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<b>Fri 7</b>	Men with Purpose(1st & 3rd Fri) Texas Hold'em (every Fri) Tennis Club (every Fri)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room Tennis Courts	10-11am 12:30-5pm 1pm
<b>Sat 8</b>	The Breakfast Club Voice for Residents	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Mountain View Room	8:30am 3-4:30pm
<b>Mon 10</b>	Texas Hold'em (all other Mondays)	Mountain View Room	12:30-5pm
<b>Tue 11</b>	CP2 Torah Club (2nd & 4th Tues)	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms TBD	5-8pm 6:30-8pm
<b>Wed 12</b>	Red Hattitudes Personal Protection for Seniors (2nd & 4th Wed) Aviation Club	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Game Room Aspen Room	12:30pm 3pm 7pm
<b>Fri 14</b>	Indivisible HG/Aurora	Library	11:30am-12:50pm
<b>Sat 15</b>	Saturday Afternoon LIVE Social	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	<b>3-5pm</b>
<b>Tue 18</b>	Garden Club Caregivers Support Group Frolics "Heartfelt Harvest"	Arts and Crafts Room Aspen Room Rendezvous Bar & Grill	10-11am 2-4pm 4pm
<b>Wed 19</b>	High Twelve Club #11 Masonic Club	Rendezvous Bar & Grill	11am
<b>Thu 20</b>	Social Justice Discussion	Blue Spruce Room	10am-12pm
<b>Sat 22</b>	National Federation of the Blind	Mountain View Room	10:30am-12:30pm
<b>Mon 24</b>	Low Vision Support Group	Aspen Room	1:30pm
<b>Tue 25</b>	HG Democrats	Sandberg Auditorium	4-5:30pm

### Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, Nov 3: Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday by appt.), Arts & Crafts Room, 9am-12pm (see ad p. 55)

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

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## Boards and Committees *Monthly Meetings*

SEC (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, Nov 3  
CECC (BR/Zoom) – 11am, Tues, Nov 4  
Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Nov 4  
Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Nov 5  
Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Fri, Nov 7  
RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, Nov 10  
Maintenance (Zoom) – TBD  
Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Nov 11  
Civic Affairs (BR/Zoom) - 11am, Wed, Nov 12  
Foundation Committee (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Wed, Nov 12  
Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3pm, Thurs, Nov 13  
Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Mon, Nov 17  
Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Nov 19  
ACC (Zoom) – 10am Thu, Nov 20

**HGMD Special Board Meeting (BR/Zoom), 1pm, Thu, Nov 20**

**HGA Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Tues, Nov 25**

~~Resident Orientation (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Nov 26~~ *cancelled*

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



***Heather 'n Yon  
Deadline: 11/19***

**SUBMIT TO:  
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>.

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

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

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

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

HG complains about excessive water usage. Clubhouse, 1st floor, men's room, wall mounted urinal, has water constantly running for the last 10 days. I've reported it three times

-T Lee Keene, B223

## **Heather 'n Yon,**

This note is both a thank you and a compliment to two groups of people who have done work in our building.

1- Goes to the installers of new flooring throughout our building. They were on time, worked hard each day, were polite and friendly and the residents were totally pleased with them. The job was completed on schedule and looks great!

2- Goes to our in-house paint crew. As of this writing, the paint in our

building has yet to be completed, but the crew has done a great job to date. Prep work, masking and painting has been done cleanly and efficiently. Alerts to residents were done well and was greatly appreciated!

Kind words for a job well done makes everyone feel better. We all need to take care of the people who take care of us.

-Rita LaCarde, B242

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

**Please submit letters to:**

bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com

**Subject line:** Letter to the Editor

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

**Word Limit: 300**

**Thank you!**



Photo submitted by Christine Zipps, B223

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November 11

**Thank you to all who have served.  
We honor and salute you!**

# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

## **Aging Strong in Heather Gardens**

This organization addresses the needs of HG residents related to aging. The mission is to support residents who wish to age in place while promoting community responsibility and proactive engagement. Goals include:

- Outreach – Proactively connecting with older residents and their families to share resources and guidance.
- Community & Family Engagement –enlisting the engagement of family and the community to support aging in place.
- Neighbor-to-Neighbor Support – Building partnerships among residents to offer meaningful, everyday support, such as daily check-in phone calls, and sharing vital information with HOA or service partners when family is absent or uninvolved.
- Information Sharing – Hosting meetings with speakers, holding a resource fair with local organizations for residents and families, providing printed materials.
- Resource Building – Creating and maintaining a trusted list of service providers, support organizations, and local programs designed to help residents remain safely and independently in their homes. This is a grassroots effort driven by compassion, connection, and a shared belief that growing older should come with dignity and support. Regular meeting times and places are still being determined. Check the Clubhouse news for meetings and presentations, or contact the club leaders by email at [agingstronghg@gmail.com](mailto:agingstronghg@gmail.com).

## **Aviation Club**

The HG Aviation Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Aspen Rm in the clubhouse. All you need to join is an interest in aviation ... you do not have to be a veteran, or a pilot or aircrew or any military, just have a keen interest in aviation. We cover

civil aviation as well as military.  
--Rudy Morris, 720-995-0484,  
[rudymorris4@gmail.com](mailto:rudymorris4@gmail.com)

## **Book Club**

The HG Women's Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month, to discuss the chosen book of the month. There are two sessions: No. 1 in the Mountain View Room at 10:30 am and No. 2 in the library at 1 pm. If you would like to see which books each Club will be reading in 2025/26, a list of Clubs No. 1 and 2 Titles is in the Book Club mail slot in the clubhouse. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, call Janet Arce at (720) 774-3368 for the 10:30 a.m. group, or Joanne Urias at (251) 518-5781 for the 1 p.m. group.

## **The Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast Club (TBC) for Singles 50 Plus meets at 8:30 am on the second Saturday in Rendezvous Bar & Grill for breakfast. Call 303-794-3332 to make your reservation. Cost is \$20. TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it has three other chapters along the Front Range. We have ongoing activities, such as bowling, the Birthday Bash, eating at a new restaurant, and Happy Hour. Each month, there are also different activities planned, such as museums, sports events, plays, concerts, and day trips, to name a few. Come see! – Suzanne Harmes

## **CP1**

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

## **CP2**

We meet the second Tuesday of the month in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms from 5 - 8 pm in February and October. These are BYO drinks and a dish to share events. In April, August and December, we will be meeting in the Rendezvous Bar and Grill

from 4:30 – 7 pm. Drinks and food as well as tax and tip are at your own expense. In June, we meet in the Picnic Pavilion. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Koscove, AR Representative for CP-2, at 720-314-1584.

## **CP4**

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

## **Caregivers Support Group**

The HG Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Aspen Room from 2-4 pm. All caregivers are welcome. In November we will hear a presentation on fall prevention. Questions? Call Nancy Fuhr at 303-337-4890.

## **Democrats/HG**

The Heather Gardens Democratic Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month. The November meeting of the Heather Gardens Democratic Club will be Tuesday, November 25, at 4-5:30 in the auditorium. If I can get all the logistics worked out, our program will be the documentary film about Robert Reich's last economics class at Berkeley. It has been widely praised as uplifting and positive. There is no mention of Trump in it. The movie is called "The Last Class." (It lasts about 70 minutes.) There may be a small charge for tickets, like \$5. (For more info, go to [TheLastClassfilm.com](http://TheLastClassfilm.com).)

We will also briefly review the election results. The purpose of our club is to support the Constitution, the rule of law and good government. We meet as a community of shared values. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you live in Heather Gardens or are registered as a Democrat. If you want to receive my emails, send me your email address. If you want to stop receiving them, let me know that. We will not meet in December. -Marty Karnopp, Chair.

303-353-9640, [mjkarnopp@gmail.com](mailto:mjkarnopp@gmail.com)

### **Frolics**

Our Traveling Troupe will be performing "Heartfelt Harvest" at the Rendezvous, Tuesday, November 18, 4 pm. Our variety show is performed as a gift to you – our community, friends, family, and guests. No charge! Purchase a drink, some munchies, or dinner, and enjoy the entertainment! If you're thinking about entertainment for the holidays, we're available. We can create a special program just for your group. And if you want to be a part of the Frolics Community, our annual fee is only \$12. Join us for entertainment, acting, music, dance, parties, and FUN! Call Susie Hayes to become a member or to book a performance for your next event – 303.745.1816.

### **Garden Club**

We enjoyed our last meeting of the year in October, consisting of a delicious potluck meal and friendly visit with our fellow gardeners. The 2026 Garden Club meetings will resume March 30, 2026. Although we aren't gardening or meeting during the winter months, we will host an educational presentation Tuesday, November 18 at 10 am-11 am in the Arts and Crafts Room in the Clubhouse. This presentation will be about Plant Propagation by Master Gardener Richard "Duke" Earie followed by a Q&A session. Everyone is invited to learn something that will help you to successfully increase the number of your plants. Free propagated plants will be provided for every attendee. Reservations are not required, refreshments are served, and donations are accepted. - President Nancy Linsenbiger, 720-932-6990.

### **The Green Team**

Our meetings are the first Thursday of the month from 10 – 12 noon in the Skyview Room. Have you marked your calendars for Friday, November 14? We hope to see you celebrating America Recycles Day in our auditorium from 1-3:00 pm. You will have the chance to ask questions to a variety of

recycling company representatives. After getting your answers, join us for refreshments and watch several interesting videos. Here's your opportunity to learn what other parts of our country and the world are doing about their trash. Also, we will be collecting empty plastic pill bottles for the local underserved. Please leave caps on and remove your personal information before bringing them. For more information call (303)587-9797. -Wendy Pfaffhausen

### **Heather Gardens Singers**

We rehearse in the Skyview room from 1-2:30 pm on Tuesdays. All skill levels are welcome to come sing in the HG Singers chorus. There are two basic requirements for joining this group: 1. You love to sing alone or for an audience; 2. You like having fun! We are pretty serious about entertaining our audience with well-done performances and we laugh along the way. In fact, we laugh several times in every rehearsal. One chorister said, "We have professional directing and excellent accompanying with amateur fun." Another said, "There is a strong atmosphere of camaraderie amongst the singers." Sounds like something you'd like to try? Here are a few more details: the dues are minimal and attendance is heartily recommended but we don't keep an attendance chart. For more details call Tom Kappel 720-377-5756.

### **Heather Gardens Water Conservation Taskforce**

The purpose of the taskforce is to work on implementing the recommendations mentioned in the study to conserve the usage of (city) water in Heather Gardens (HG) for environmental and sustainability reasons and to substantially lower our HG water/sewer bill. For more information, visit our website [www.hg-wctf.org](http://www.hg-wctf.org) or e-mail to [hgwctf@gmail.com](mailto:hgwctf@gmail.com).

### **High Twelve Club #11 Masonic Club/HG**

High Twelve Club #11, a Masonic Club at Heather Gardens, meets every 4th Wednesday (3rd

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

### **Indivisible/HG/Aurora**

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

### **Karaoke Club**

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

### **Kiwanis Club of Aurora**

Kiwanis meets on the first

Thursday, 6 pm, for a business meeting in the Skyview Room, and on the third Thursday, 6 pm, with a guest speaker. If interested in participating, contact the club at [jwmkiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:jwmkiwanis@gmail.com). – James Martin, president

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- Make new friends and connections

Enjoy lively discussions with fellow residents who contribute and share their own experiences. “The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery” – Mark Van Doren. Ready to get involved? Contact us at: [heathergardenslearners@gmail.com](mailto:heathergardenslearners@gmail.com)

**Low Vision Support Group**

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

**Meditation Club**

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

**Meet & Schmooze**

HG Meet & Schmooze is a group of Jewish residents that meet at least quarterly. Other events are planned on an ad hoc basis. The group is primarily social and meets either in

the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms or the Rendezvous. We bring snacks, have speakers, celebrate holidays or just enjoy the company. Anyone can plan an event. For information contact Myra Lansky. [myralansky@gmail.com](mailto:myralansky@gmail.com)

**Men with Purpose**

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

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

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

**Optimist Club**

The club meets on 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month for breakfast in Rendezvous Bar & Grill. Continental Breakfast 8:30 am / Meeting at 9 am. A continental breakfast buffet is \$10 per person. Optimist Clubs are dedicated to “bringing out the best in kids” through various service projects. We welcome anyone interested in finding out more. Contact Sue Brandreth, 248-701-9263 with questions.

The HG Optimist Club is sponsoring their annual Holiday Cookies Helping Kids sale on December 3, 9 am-noon in the clubhouse lobby. \$10 buys you a pastry box filled with a variety of homemade holiday cookies. Proceeds will provide holiday food for families of students at Del Mar Academy, Aurora.

**Personal Protection for Seniors**

We meet the 2nd and 4th

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

**Red Hattitudes**

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

**Republican / We the People Club**

November - Law and Order: William Buckley, Guest speaker, will share his experiences prosecuting 55 homicides in Aurora. Pie and coffee will be served Location and date TBD  
 December - We the People Social - December 16 - meet for Taco Tuesday, 2:00 - 4:00 PM in the Rendezvous. Tables will be reserved for our club members. We The People Club stands for The U.S. Constitution, Common Sense Governance, Defending Life & Freedom. For more information contact Robin O’Meara, President, [rlomeara1@gmail.com](mailto:rlomeara1@gmail.com).

**Residents for Responsible Leadership (RRL)**

This organization grew out of the Residents for Renewed Leadership, which was in action during the recall event in our community. Our mission is to instill unity in the community. We will continue to meet to encourage residents to become involved and knowledgeable by attending Board meetings, both of the Heather Gardens Association Board and the Heather Gardens Metro District Board. These meetings can be attended by Zoom or in person. Times for meetings can be found

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

on the Heather Gardens website. We also encourage you to attend The Heather Gardens Town Halls, held once a month. Meetings for RRL are held quarterly in the Blue Spruce room. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Nonean Price at nonean1127@hotmail.com or Nora Tracy at lenorat@comcast.net.

### **RV Lot Club**

The HG RV Lot Club will not meet in November. Contact: Lee Nicholson at 720-949-2032.

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

### **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**

Meetings are held from 10 am – 12 noon, the third Thursday of every month in the Blue Spruce Room. You are invited to participate in “Unpacking the Society in Which We Live” roundtable discussion on Thursday, November 20 from 10 am-12 noon in the Blue Spruce Room. Our purpose is to effect change in behaviors through understanding, increasing our awareness, expanding our knowledge, fostering reconciliation and sharing stories of equity or inequity, inclusiveness or exclusion. Dr. Brian E. Arnold will speak about the tours he organizes for young Black Men to visit the Civil Rights sites in Montgomery Alabama: “Journey to Freedom”. Co-facilitators: Diane Pritchard dianekpritchard@gmail.com and Bernie Hupperts marlynber@gmail.com

### **Spanish Club (Club en Español)**

Practica y conversacion en español, 11 am–noon every Monday,

Clubhouse Library. Miriam Colón, 303-261-2057.

### **Sevillians**

To All Residents of Buildings 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, and 236: The Sevillians dinner will continue on the first Tuesday of each month in the Banquet Room of the Rendezvous Bar & Grill at the new time of 5 pm. Please email Janet Arce at: arcej1946@gmail.com or call (720) 774-3368 if you would like to be placed on the invitation list.

### **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.

### **Torah Club**

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

### **Voice For Residents Forum**

Fostering community engagement, education, and communications on current issues involving Heather Gardens residents, leadership and management. November Forum attendees share and discuss updates to issues brought to the Forum in October. Join us Saturday, November 8, 3 - 4:30 pm, in the Mountain View Room. Questions, comments, please

contact Marilyn Macdonald at thevoiceforresidentsforum@gmail.com

### **Woodshop Club**

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

### **Writers Club**

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

## Clubs/Organizations & Sports/Recreation

### SUBMISSIONS

#### Email:

Gloria Lesher:  
gjlesher@gmail.com

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

300 word limit

\*Please note: any submissions after deadline may not be included in the upcoming issue of

*Heather 'n Yon*

# SPORTS & RECREATION

## Billiard Club

The Billiard Club meets for Co-ed 8-Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in BEFORE 6:10 pm in order to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 pm on Thursdays. Annual dues of \$12 are payable on Jan. 1 of each year. All new players are welcome. Questions? Call Connie Burns 303-695-0766 or Judy Brehmer 303-369-6258.

8 BALL WINNERS 9/16 – 10/9  
*Sept 16:*

1. Otis Lawson/Shannon Boyd
2. Brian Bucenec/Melissa Sugar
3. Scott Crowe/Linda Gonzalez

*Sept 23:*

1. Otis Lawson/Shannon Boyd
2. Brian Bucenec/Judy Brehmer
3. Lindy Davenport/Linda Gonzalez

*Sept 30:*

1. Greg Martens/Thea Hutcheson
2. Otis Lawson/Shannon Boyd
3. Don "Ditto" Schultz/Bob Woods

*Oct 7:*

1. Otis Lawson/Judy Heins
2. Bob Woods/Dee Moore
3. Don "Ditto" Schultz/Sue

9 BALL WINNERS 9/18 – 10/9  
*Sept 18:*

1. Don "Ditto" Schultz
2. Otis Lawson
3. Scott Crowe

*Sept 25:*

1. John Manzanares
2. Otis Lawson
3. Brain Bucenec

*Oct 2:*

1. Greg Martens
2. Otis Lawson
3. Leo Ferrin

*Oct 9:*

1. Otis Lawson
2. John Manzanares
3. Steve Hesser

## Bocce Ball Club

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

## Bowling League

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

Bowling Center. Bowling Results for week 5:

### *Individual High Averages*

Men- Alan Erickson 196.75, Maury Smith 183.60, Bill Peters 175.20

Women-Colleen Kreft 142.83, Florence Madonna 141.42, Charlane Plucheck 141.13

### *Individual High Games*

Men- Maury Smith 213, Alan Erickson 212, Bill Sanger 208

Women- Colleen Kreft 201, Connie Burns 186, Charlane Plucheck 172

### *Team Standings*

1st Place – Fire Flies, Florence Madonna, George Madonna and Barb Gierscher

2nd Place – The Flamingos, Marla Cole, Scott Cole and Larry Hill

3rd Place – Strike it Rich, Barb Schneller, Zena Downs and Pat Brinkman

For information call: Mary Jo Prichard 303-929-1241

## Bridge/Men's Monday

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

## Bridge/Social

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

## Bunco

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

## Cribbage/Afternoon

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

## Duplicate Bridge/ACBL

We play at 1 pm Wednesdays in the Blue Spruce Room. For

partnership information, or with questions, call Linda Harder, 303-369-2032, or meek045@outlook.com. – Linda Harder, Director

## Game Night

Game night is held in the Skyview room from 3-5 pm every Monday. - Lynneal Woodard, kennwood.lw@gmail.com.

## Golf Club/Ladies

Official tournament play concluded in mid-September, but the remaining weeks of the month as well as October were still a busy time for the Heather Gardens Ladies Golf Club. The 3rd Annual Chicks and Hens event was held on September 24, and the Hens were the winners of bragging rights for another year. The event included some contests and the winners were:

### *Longest Drive*

• Chicks - Judy Nelson

• Hens - Sharla Sheeks

### *Closest to the Pin Second Shot*

• Chicks - Gina Studer

• Hens - Bev Nelson

### *Closest to the Pin – Hole #8*

• Chicks - Sheryl Wambold

• Hens - Suzi Stolte

On October 1, the club hosted its first Member/Resident Guest Day providing an opportunity for Heather Gardens residents to learn about the club and play a round of golf with members. Five residents joined in the fun, and we hope to continue this event in the future.

On October 15, the club held its end-of-year banquet. Having lost the in the Chicks and Hens event, the Chicks performed the "Chicken Dance" to entertain the winning Hens. During the event Ringers Chair Nancy Wilson announced the Ringer winners for the year. Social Chair Cindy Koch served as the event's emcee and many great prizes were distributed to attendees. Many thanks to Cindy and her committee for the beautiful centerpieces as well as a very well-run event.

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, on our website, [www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com](http://www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com). The next board meeting will be at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, January 28, 2026. All members are welcome. Board meeting minutes are posted on the website. -Publicity Chair, Suzi Stolte

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

The Heather Gardens Men's Golf Club (HGMGC) has room for anyone who wants to join. Pick up your application at the Golf Pro Shop. You may also download the application from Golf League Tracker (GLT) at [www.golfleaguetracker.com/glthome/league](http://www.golfleaguetracker.com/glthome/league). Send an email to [jon.freyer54@gmail.com](mailto:jon.freyer54@gmail.com) for login instructions. The application fee is \$50 and all applications must be turned into the Golf Pro Shop. If you have any questions, please contact the Golf Pro Shop, (303) 751-2390.

October 3 results:

#### *E Flight*

Ray Binder

Mike Guise

Jon Erion

#### *D Flight*

Bob Streno

Tom Smith

David Croak, Rob Luevano, Bob

McElfresh

#### *C Flight*

John McMullen

Chuck Marlow, Mike Meagher

Paul Zipps

#### *B Flight*

Jake Flint

Sam Thiessen, Matt Dunne

Butch Shoup

#### *A Flight*

Fred Lowe Jr

Steve Hesser

Phil Marquis

#### *Closest to the Hole*

#6 - Dave Warmbold

#8 - Jim Mathews

October 10 "3 Clubs and a Putter" results:

#### *E Flight*

Jon Erion

Phil Haas, Mike Guise

Mark Giarratano, John Guise

#### *D Flight*

Bob Streno

John Borton

Joe Rook, Cliff Creswell

#### *C Flight*

Henry Ulibarri

Cal Green, Paul Zipps, Mike

Meagher

Chuck Marlow, Mike Benowitz

#### *B Flight*

Russ Smith

Raj Agrawal

Jim Pardikes

#### *A Flight*

Phil Marquis

Bill Connors, Chris Hughes, Rob

Ledford

Steve Hesser, John Bender, Steve

Gilbert, Tom Parko

#### *Closest to the Hole*

#6 - Fred Lowe Jr

#8 - Cliff Creswell

Congratulations to Fred Lowe Jr for his Hole in One on #6!

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

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

### **Mah Jongg/Monday**

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

### **Mah Jongg/Tuesday**

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

### **Mexican Train Dominoes**

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

510-333-9951.

### **Pickleball**

Come and enjoy America's fastest growing sport with us. We offer fun experiences for players of all skill levels including open and leveled play as well as mixers and socials every month. We provide paddles and pickleballs for new players and offer beginner instruction through the spring and summer. If you are interested in learning the game, please contact Jan Belt at [janetbelt4@gmail.com](mailto:janetbelt4@gmail.com) for more information, visit <https://www.hgpickle.org> for the latest club and schedule information and to find many informative pickleball links. Contact Jan Belt at 303-514-8526 or Linda Hileman at 720-256-7477 if you have any questions. If you would like to be added to our weekly email updates, send an email to our Secretary, Ron Hileman at [ronhileman@gmail.com](mailto:ronhileman@gmail.com). We'd love for you to join us on the courts!

### **Ping Pong**

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

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

On Mondays, 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 Banquet Room. On Wednesdays, we play Men's Poker (12:30 – 5 pm) in the Mountain View 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. -Rosemarie Kessler, 303-337-7005.

### **Square Dance**

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

### **Tai Chi**

Experience the ancient art of Tai Chi, a graceful form of exercise that integrates mind, body, and spirit. With slow, controlled movements, Tai Chi promotes relaxation, balance, and flexibility, while reducing stress and improving overall well-being. One of the best ways to learn Tai Chi is the step-by-step approach used by the Heather Gardens Tai Chi Club. The club meets on Thursday mornings from 8 - 11 am on the clubhouse tennis courts. The club is a residents only club. Please contact Dean Uyeno via email at [dean.uyeno@live.com](mailto:dean.uyeno@live.com) prior to your first meeting for information that will help make your first experience enjoyable and productive.

### **Tennis Club**

Fall is officially here! We are now playing in the afternoons on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays after 1 pm. Come join us! Make new friends and have fun. We are not hard core and don't play like Nadal or Serena. We have all levels of play and offer free lessons. If you are a bit rusty or have never held a tennis racquet, but enjoy fun and laughter and want some exercise, this is the group for you. Call (303)587-9797 if you need a racquet to get started. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at

5 pm in the Rendezvous. Wendy Pfaffhausen

### **Time4Tap Dance Group**

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



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-Melissa ♥

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**-Elie Wiesel**



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Photos submitted by  
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### FOR SALE – 14000 E. Linvale Pl. #310 - \$275,000

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



### FOR SALE – 14152 E. Linvale Pl. #311 - \$319,000

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



### FOR SALE – 2734 S. Heather Gardens Way - \$425,000

4 bed / 4 bath 1633 sq. ft. Townhome – Wonderful golf course location! Remodeled w/Bamboo floors on main level. Electric fireplace. Remodeled kitchen w/granite counters, can lights & center island w/extra cabinets & drawers. Remodeled baths.



### FOR SALE – 13940 E. Linvale Pl. - \$425,000

3 bed / 3 bath 1176 sq. ft. Patio Home – New carpet & new paint throughout. Updated cabinets & glass top stove in kitchen + extra cabinets & counters. Finished basement w/family room, bed, bath & craft room. Covered patio.

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September 2025



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Greetings to all my loyal readers. Poppy, The Puppy, here, writing this month to commemorate the first anniversary of my residency at HG.

It was in November 2024 that my hoo-man sponsor, Mary, graciously invited me to come live with her in HG. She accomplished this by strapping a chain around my neck, and dragging me from the Aurora Animal Shelter (AAS) – but it seems churlish to nitpick the details.

I lived at the AAS twice in my short, 14-month existence. I was left there when I was six months, then returned to the AAS at 14 months.

I would never speak ill of my former owners, but I suspect that being dumped at the shelter twice saddled me with the reputation of having Behavioral Problems. This label is a bit bigoted, I think, as it might have been the people who had the behavioral problems.

My current hoo-man is a simple, but well-intentioned – if misguided – person who has devoted this last year to trying to turn me into a well-behaved puppy dog. I think she's wrongheaded on this point: I am a free-spirited canine, who was born to run.

But, still, I aimed to please, and so picked out the category that was the most important to her – house training – and proceeded to conform to this in record time. She also seemed to think that mastering the command, Sit!, had value, so I embraced this as well, just to humor her.

My hoo-man also seems to think I am easily distracted; therefore, she spends hours reading websites and dog-training books, trying to learn how to get me to FOCUS! when we are out walking together. This place has so much to divert an otherwise diligent doggie: squirrels, geese, rabbits, ducks, turkeys (where did

they come from?), and a wide variety of herons, who are just passing through.

My hoo-man has been religiously reviewing such helpful websites as Zen Dog Animal Massage, Four Paws Holistic Therapy and Animal Educators. While I'm sure these are all fine local organizations, I fail to see that I need fixing. (I'm not talking about the spaying kind of fixing – that's already been done).

It's true that I am rather a flibbertigibbet. How do you catch a cloud and pin it down? How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand? (Don't encourage me, or I'll start singing. And nobody likes a singing dog.)

Following one year of careful observation and studious consideration, I have compiled this list of suggestions, which I hope will be evaluated at the next HG HOA board meeting. The suggestions are designed to make this a more palatable haven for area puppy dogs who might or might not have Behavioral Problems:

1. Any resident caught walking on HG property who does not have a pocketful of dog treats – and who does not generously distribute such treats – shall be fined \$10 per occurrence. (I'm sure the Security officers will be happy to enforce this new rule.)
2. Leash laws shall be observed at all times. I've run into a few hoo-mans who ought to be on a leash, although I don't think city statutes provide for this.
3. Current regulations prohibiting dogs in the Clubhouse should be rescinded. How am I supposed to get into the swimming pool to practice water rescue? Or hold my anniversary celebration at our restaurant?
4. Hoo-mans should be prohibited at all times from making disparaging remarks about dogs. You might think they don't understand what you're saying, but how do you know?

...Specifically, I am referring to my human labeling me a canine wrecking ball. She's never forgotten the time I ran into her, headlong, and knocked her to the ground. But

a person (or dog) needs to be fair when engaging in such name calling. It was her choice to stand in my path.

On another occasion, I heard her tell a neighbor how smart I am. Maybe, but a surer bet is how fast I am – otherwise, she would have gotten out of my way, and not gotten knocked down.

Sometimes rescue humans need a lot of work. And they, apparently, have memories like elephants.

Sadly, rescue cats are even worse. I have two feline brothers of dubious origin who occupied this house before I came to live here.

Because they were here first, each is a little churlish about sharing the premises. Unfortunately, resources in this place are a bit limited. We have three furry occupants, for example, but only one hoo-man lap. Sometimes, the jockeying for position gets ugly.

As I am a delicate dog who is the product of two broken homes, you would think these fat cats, who are safe and secure, could be a bit generous about sharing. But, no, each tries to muscle his way in to what I have come to consider my territory.

On the whole, though, I find life in HG pretty palatial for a wandering doggie. I think this might just be a good place to settle down.

Another positive note: a neighbor is celebrating a landmark birthday in November at the Rendezvous Restaurant. Since this neighbor has designated herself my godmother, I'm sure she'll be happy to share her event with me.

This is especially true, since I texted my hoo-man's credit card number to the restaurant, and told them to charge everything to her. I think that is how a considerate doggie should behave.

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