

Heather 'n Von[®]

May 2023

Vol. 37, No. 4

The Official Newsmagazine for HG
www.heathergardens.org

***Into the forest I go,
to lose my mind and
find my soul.
– John Muir (1838–1914)***

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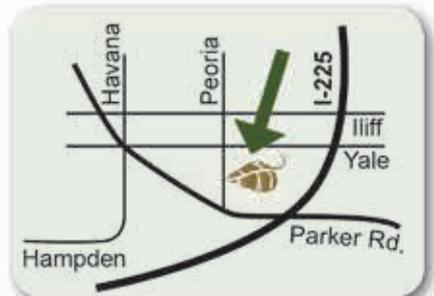


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TO HG RESIDENTS:

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

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

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Archambault's final HGMD meeting, 2022 audit accepted

The HGMD Board of Directors held a special meeting on April 11, which adjourned into executive session, to receive legal advice regarding a letter the board received about HGMD election campaign interference. All directors attended, as did Attorney Jennifer Ivey, HG CEO John Rea and Administration Manager Evelyn Ybarra.

When the board re-entered the public portion of the meeting, Treasurer Bill Archambault moved that the HGMD Board of Directors not respond to the letter written by Daniel Taylor, who was a candidate in the May 2022 board election. The motion passed with three votes. There were two board abstentions from David Funk and Maria Mines, because they were candidates in the May 2022 election.

...

The HGMD Board of Directors held its regular meeting on April 20. All directors attended the meeting, as did HGMD's attorney Jennifer Ivey.

President David Funk noted that April 16–22 was National Volunteer week. He used the occasion to recognize Treasurer Bill Archambault, who was attending his last board meeting before his term of office expires. Funk noted that Archambault has devoted 18 years to serving HG. Although Archambault is leaving the HGMD Board, he will continue to be a member of the Joint Budget and Finance (B&F) Committee.

Funk noted, "Volunteers strengthen the fabric of our community."

Archambault thanked Funk, CFO Jerry Counts, the

See *HGMD...page 11*

Confusing meet and greet of HGMD candidates facilitated neither

A "Meet the Candidates" forum has been a staple of HG elections for both boards, for decades, offering a live audience of voters the opportunity to ask candidates questions and hear their visions for board service. A rigidly formatted session for HGMD Board candidates, held in the Sandberg Auditorium and on Zoom, on April 15, took a different approach.

Past candidates forums have followed a format of allowing candidates five minutes for an opening statement, two minutes for a closing statement, and several minutes to answer questions. The April 15 format allowed candidates two minutes for an opening statement, 45 seconds to answer each question, and no opportunity for closing statements.

In the past, members of the HGA committee, Civic Affairs, were asked to host, moderate, and keep time for candidate forums, for HGA and HGMD. The April 15 meeting was moderated by HG employee Gary Rasmussen, listed on the HG website as Accounting Clerk.

A Piler notice sent to the public on April 11 told residents that there would be no questions from the floor on the day of the event. It urged those interested to send in their questions via email. The notice stated, "the audience may listen in, but may not participate or ask live questions."

Opening the session, which he termed, "HGMD's invitation to introduce you" to the candidates, Rasmussen announced the questions had been pre-selected from those submitted earlier. He did not say who selected them, or who wrote them, other than they were "submitted by residents." Some were complicated, three-part questions, technical in nature (see sidebar, page 17).

Rasmussen read the rules for the gathering, noting what he called "a few basics," which were, "no questions from the audience, no comments, no booing, no cheering." He added, "if anything like that happens, we're going to ask you to leave — we're very serious about that."

See *Candidates...page 17*



Above (from left): Candidates for director on HGMD Board in Sandberg Auditorium on April 15 were Dave Bushman, B209; David Funk, B244; Maria Mines, NTH; Daniel Taylor, B217; Craig Baldwin, B242; Rita Effler, B232; and Robin O'Meara, CP3.

Extra! Extra! Information for you –

HG anniversary activities get better

It has been fun watching residents and staff alike proudly wear the new T-shirts with the 50th Anniversary logo. The organizing committee was pleased to partner with the Aurora Historical Society in selling the See's candy (lollipops and mini-boxes of chocolates). There are plenty of lollipops still available. Both the candy and T-shirts will be sold at "pop up" sales over the next few weeks. Call Nancy, 720-932-6990, if you can't wait for a sale. I will be happy to ease your craving for chocolate, butterscotch, or a logo T-shirt!

April's big event was "NITE AT THE RACES," held in Sandberg Auditorium with an enthusiastic crowd of race lovers who were happy to place bets using "funny money." Then they watched the races on the big screen. Best Hat and Best Outfit winners paraded their winning attire to the admiration of all in attendance. Participants chowed down on a Golden Box Meal, prepared by Rendezvous Restaurant.

The evening's signature drink, Golden Hour Peach Iced Tea, was revealed as one of the custom cocktails from the new 70s–80s cocktail menu. The HG Optimist Club generously donated the Nite at the Races game to the HG 50th Celebration.

The final event of April was a *Silent Auction*, where more than 30 big and beautiful custom-made baskets were on display and auctioned to the highest bidder. A big thank you to all

generous basket makers and donors from throughout the HG community!

More events are planned from May through September, as we continue to celebrate Heather Gardens Golden 50th Anniversary!

Trivia Contests: Historic trivia questions are planned for weekly introduction. Two winners will be selected every week to enjoy an Anniversary Special Drink or Dessert in Rendezvous.

May 20 Fitness Fair: This fun outdoor Fitness Walk and Showcase will feature a variety of fitness-related clubs, classes and activities enjoyed in HG. Participants can choose to walk the community perimeter, take a Tree Walk along the inside Golf green area, watch the Muu-Muu Hula Group perform a special hula show, visit a showcase of tables and displays, and enjoy a sumptuous Healthy Luau Buffet in Rendezvous! (For more details, see page 10.)

Golf Tournament: Details are still being defined for this fun and competitive golf tournament, played at HG's 9-hole executive Golf Course.

Rendezvous Restaurant has scheduled *Special 50th Golden Anniversary Buffets and Music* on July 29, August 19, and September 15. Delicious, themed buffets will again feature favorite foods from the 1970s and 1980s, along with some contemporary dishes. Each buffet will serve a special cocktail menu of classic



Anniversary Golden drinks. Have you tried a Rita GOLD Margarita, Texas AMBER Mule, or HEATHERS GOLDEN Cadillac? All are delicious and guaranteed to put you into the Golden Anniversary mood!

September 15 is the *final Big Gala*: Culminating a 50th Anniversary year of celebration, this event will have A Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony, Historical Presentations, Photos and Stories about Heather Gardens throughout its 50 years, A Time Capsule Ceremony, a Special Dinner, Music and Entertainment, and of course, Sparkling Beverages and Anniversary Cake!

Thank you to all the volunteers and donors who have worked so hard to make this a celebratory time in our shared history. We look forward to all HG residents taking part in this special year of celebrating HG's history.

**– Nancy Linsenbigler, B243,
Chair, 50th Anniversary
Committee**

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Replacing foam roofs on multi-story buildings; 2-year cycle for pruning

On April 18, the HGA Board of Directors met with seven members present. Larry Dávila and David Baxter were absent.

The board approved a contract with Terpstra Roofing, to replace the foam roofs on four six-story buildings: B215, B218, B220 and B241 (not to exceed \$1,895,926, includes change order reserve \$173,362). Maintenance Committee Chair Mike Pula explained that the approved amount exceeded the budget (\$1,708,000), which was for three roofs. When bids were collected, the quote to replace three roofs was low enough that Contracts Manager Don O’Gorman recommended adding a fourth building to the contract for this year. Terpstra’s bid had included a fourth roof option, bringing the total to \$1,723,602, which was only slightly higher than the budgeted line item. Maintenance felt the price was a good one because it came from an experienced contractor that had replaced HG roofs, and endorsed replacing four roofs, as they were leaking actively. Replacing all foam roofs has been a multi-year HG goal.

The board approved the pruning schedule proposed by Roads & Grounds, to perform aggressive pruning every two years, designating neighborhoods for even- and odd-year work (Attachment 3 to Roads & Grounds Procedure RG-1). Pula noted that Roads & Grounds staff felt the two-year cycle would substantially improve the condition of trees and shrubs. Pula added that Roads & Grounds will not do special orders for cosmetic purposes when on this schedule, although some requests might be considered. (See sidebar on HG trees and shrubs.)

Treasurer Terry Hostetler reported that both the HGA and HGMD had received “spotless” audits for 2022, presented by representatives of Rubin Brown auditors at the April 17 meeting of the Budget & Finance (B&F) Committee. He asked the board to approve the 2022 HGA portion of the audit, which it did.

The board approved revisions to the Procedure Memorandum (PM) for the Joint B&F Committee. President Jill Bacon commented that the PM revisions had been worked on “for some time, and revised, and revised, and revised,” so she was pleased to see the final product.

The board approved a contract with Denver Commercial Coatings (\$87,450), to paint the exterior of B232. This amount exceeded the 2022 budget, which Pula explained, saying that the cost of materials “had simply gone up” during the year.

Security Emergency Preparedness Committee (SEC) Chair Greg Winslow reported that the Security Department had to let an officer go, and was short-handed. The SEC report submitted by Winslow on April 3 noted that a vehicle had been totaled. HG now needed to

purchase a RAV4 patrolling vehicle, and hire two officers (one is a 2022 full-time employee addition).

Addressing the manpower situation, CEO Jon Rea explained that the Maintenance Department also is four employees short. He reported Chief Human Resources Officer Holly Shearer is working diligently “to backfill,” and suggested that HG might consider having an onsite hiring event.

Rea addressed the notice that many residents received from Starry Internet, announcing a Chapter 11 Reorganization/Bankruptcy filing by the company. He reported that Starry had told him it will continue to focus on its core markets during its reorganization. Denver is one of those core markets. Starry hopes to move forward and complete the HG project for wireless service, Rea said. He suggested residents call Starry directly with consumer questions because HG has no contract with Starry to provide service to residents.

After the regular meeting, the board adjourned into executive session, to discuss an issue with a resident, and to discuss collections.

Other actions by the board:

...extended the terms of four Audit Subcommittee members (Karen Kasprzak, Karen McClaury, Barb Schneller and Rita Lusk) by one year, until April 24, 2024.

...ratified the vote of the board, at an executive session on April 11, which approved the CEO annual performance evaluation.

Background Information on HG trees and shrubs, Roads & Grounds Department to HGA Board

HG has approximately 4,000 trees and 40,000+ shrubs ranging from Ash to Cottonwoods to many variations of pines. Each tree and shrub requires its own specific attention and care. Many of the trees and shrubs are aging and require even more attention than in years past. For HG’s crew, it is estimated to take up to 134 weeks to complete the pruning of trees and shrubs on the entire property.

In summer 2022, Roads & Grounds (R&G) received a quote from Brightview to trim trees and shrubs in CP1, CP4, B217–B220. That bid came back close to \$200,000. If extrapolated to the rest of the property, it was estimated to cost between \$1,200,000–1,300,000. This cost is greater than the entire R&G budget for the year. To better serve HG in a cost-effective manner while maintaining a high level of landscape aesthetics, R&G must find a way to prune more effectively.

HGA Management is responsible for tree and shrubbery care throughout the community. To carry out this function in an orderly manner, it is essential that general rules be established to serve as a guide when deciding where to prune around residential buildings.

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HG Fitness walk and showcase returns

Tie your sneakers up snug and join us to celebrate the fitness opportunities that we all enjoy here at HG. On Saturday, May 20, willing walkers may choose from several walking routes and enjoy the (finally!) good weather after a hard winter. Walkers, please arrive at the Clubhouse Lobby between 8:30–9 am to pick up your schedule of events and route map (and T-shirt for registrants).



The most ambitious among the walkers may take the exterior perimeter that is 2.5 miles. There are interior routes of 1.0, 0.75 and 0.25 miles. If mobility issues mean that you participate this year with a walker or scooter, please feel welcome to join in the fun. We all need the fresh air and good company that a walk provides.

Upon returning from your walks, a showcase of classes and clubs will be held 9:30–11:30 am in the Rendezvous Banquet Room. Here, you can visit with enthusiasts of various fitness-related activities and pick up information about each program. Invited hosts include HG Tennis, Pickleball and Mens or Ladies Golf Clubs, and exercise classes that include Cardio, Yoga, Zumba, Water

Aerobics and other fitness classes. The Muu-Muu Hula, Line Dancing and Square Dancing clubs are also invited. Cherry Creek State Park will provide information on upcoming events in the park for the season.

Walking in HG is free for anyone, but if you'd like a commemorative "50th" T-shirt, then register early at the Clubhouse Activities Desk, indicate your shirt size, and pay \$20. (Registration with T-shirt on the day of the event will be \$25 and sizes may be limited.)

A "Luau Themed" buffet at Rendezvous will open at 11:30 am, costing \$12 for those who sign up early (pay your server) and \$13 on the day.

About noon, the Muu-Muu Hula Club will give a 20-minute performance in Rendezvous Restaurant. Their performing group consists of eight dancers who will do five hulas to a variety of traditional and contemporary Hawaiian music.

Per the club members: "We are Heather Gardens residents and look forward to bringing you a unique show that is sure to uplift your spirits with a breath of warm, fresh air from the Islands."

Tree Walk: Dawn Fradkin, former HGA landscape specialist and arborist, now



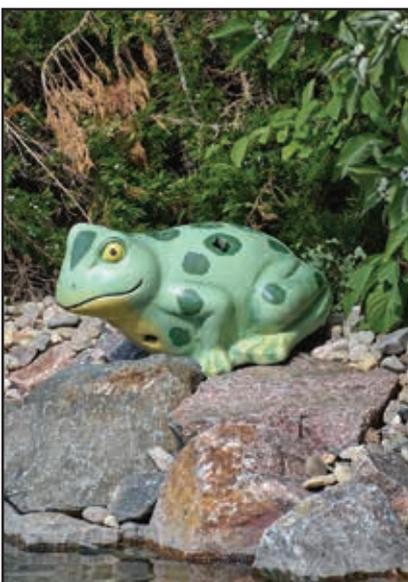
working for Colorado Extension Service, has been invited to give one of her popular 60-90 minute "Tree Walk" sessions. She highlights the 120+ species of trees and shrubs on the HG campus. Start time: to be determined. Group size limited to 25, so please register in advance by calling Bruce, 303-358-8210.

Thanks to the sponsors for this fun event: The 50th Anniversary Team, the HG Green Team and Heather Gardens Brokers.

**– Bruce Henson, STH
Heather Gardens Brokers**

Note: All activities will occur regardless of the weather, "rain or shine." Please wear a shady hat and carry water. If raining, umbrellas or ponchos may be needed.

Seville Pond residents: ceramic frogs and live Koi fish. The Koi attract the Blue Heron every spring (see photos, page 48).
Photos by Janis Farrell.





HGA Board President Reports

By Jill Bacon

Welcome spring! It is that time of year again when you see the signs of new life and growth around everywhere. What a joy it is to see the blossoms begin to show up.

This is the time of year when I can begin to see “new life” in myself. Hey, I (and hopefully you) can shake off the doldrums of winter and the sort of “slowness” that winter sometimes claims. I begin to see signs of “new life” within, as sunny days, blue skies and warm weather become more common. Of course, in Colorado the spring days may be mixed with those rainy, and sometimes snowy, days that are typical of the state.

It is a great time of year to shake off some of the negativity that I (or maybe you) have allowed to take over

during the cold and dreary days of winter. It provides an opportunity to take a look at my basic values of integrity, self-esteem and self-worth. Yes, I believe that we all have great worth.

Think of all that you have done in your life. You may not think that it is much, but when you look over the many things accomplished — they are huge to others.

It is so amazing to think of the small bulbs and seeds that you plant in the ground in the early spring. They don’t look like much but notice what they become later when fully emerged. It is a sight to remember. Similarly, each one of us has something to offer.

What you have done in your life to get here today has been of great value to someone else somewhere. You may not ever know what your influence has been. A flower or vegetable will not know what influence it has had on the person in whom it generated a smile. Maybe it provided food for an animal or human — it definitely had influence!

So today, take a look at the good in your life. Put that “spring” in your step. Make today your first day of spring if you haven’t done so already. Smile for the influence that you have had on another whether you realize it or not.

Happy spring everyone.

HGMD *...from page 5*

board, and the audience for their tributes.

He quipped, “Old accountants never die — they just lose their figures.”

Archambault moved that the HGMD accept its portion of the 2022 audit, which was “discussed in detail” at the April 17 B&F meeting. It was a clean opinion, Archambault said, and the HGA accepted its portion of the audit on April 18.

Archambault noted the auditors were extremely complimentary about the work performed by Counts. To which, Counts added that he wished to comment about the strength of the financial position that HGMD has this year, particularly the Enterprise Fund.

The HGMD currently enjoys a ratio of assets to liabilities of 9.25 (current ratio), Counts reported. Companies would “kill for this ratio,” he added.

Adding a \$5 per month per unit charge to the recreation fee last year to subsidize capital reserves turned the tide, Counts said. He noted that HGA “still has a way to go” in achieving “this sweet spot.”

“This is a really strong balance sheet,” Counts summarized his comments on HGMD’s financial reports.

The board approved revisions to the procedure memorandum (PM) for the Joint B&F. HGA approved the PM revisions on April 18.

Ivey told the board to expect more revisions on the horizon because minor changes to the bidding process for special districts were coming from the current legislative session.

The board approved extending, for another year (through April 24, 2024), the terms of four members of the Internal Audit Subcommittee. Members are Karen

Kasprzak, B219; Karen McClaury, CP3; Barb Schneller, 219; and Rita Lusk, B201. HGA approved extending their terms on April 18.

Foundation chair Eloise Laubach announced that a bench funded by the Foundation would be dedicated on May 9, 11:30 am. She was uncertain where it would be located. (According to Aleta Antoinette, it will be around the lake adjacent to the #9 tee on the HG Golf Course.)

During the Open Forum portion of the meeting, John Recob, B236, asked if the meetings for the entire year, for HGMD, could be published in advance. HGMD frequently changes its meeting from the standard third-Thursday date, to ensure it meets after B&F and the HGA Board.

Funk responded that the next month’s meeting date is always published on the current month’s agenda.

Linda Worthey, B250, asked if the audio recording of the April 15 “Meet The Candidates” session could be available on the website?

Administration Manager Evelyn Ybarra noted there had been considerable technical difficulties with the sound — as well as other issues — during the forum. After reviewing the recording, Ybarra said, she would post it to HG’s web site.

IN MEMORIAM

- Marquita Antuna (234)
- Robert Burke (250)
- Helen Cheatham (former 242)
- Betty Dadisman (234)
- Shirley Davis (250)
- Sue Henry (222)
- Sheila Hickey (221)
- Ellie Ray (NTH)
- Lorraine Salazar (207)

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~Christian Toto, Contributor, The Daily Wire

 **Heather Gardens
Republican Club** 

Social and Movie Night

Thursday, May 18th

Sandberg Auditorium

5:00 Social & Light Refreshments

5:45 Movie

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Konnie Davidson, B224

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Publisher's Corner

Contrasting Heather 'n Yon 1981 to today: HG history

by Lynn Donaldson, Editor of Heather 'n Yon

While reviewing some of the publications at Heather Gardens (HG) since its inception, I ran across *Heather 'n Yon*, Volume 3/No. 2, April-May 1981. HG was not fully built at the time — it was only eight years old.

The biggest concern at the time, as written by the community association President Glenn McQuillan, was to plan for transitioning from the developer EDI to an owner-managed community. Here's what he wrote.

Transition: What is it and WHY?

"Transition is the process of changing from developer operation of our community to owner acceptance of that responsibility.

"Why do it? Because the Declaration of Condominium requires that it be done 10 years after the developer began. That date was Jan. 23, 1973. This makes Jan. 23, 1983 our magic date.

"The officers, directors and community members of Heather Community Association have been learning as much about running Heather Gardens as we can so that the change over in 1983 will not be disruptive. This learning process is taking place daily. We have to know such things as how the contracts work for elevator service; for exterminator service and trash removal; for boiler upkeep and repair; for snow removal and ground maintenance, etc. What we learn is being documented so that as other volunteers replace those presently working — they will benefit from what has been learned.

"We are not learning these things so our volunteers can do the work, but so we will know what to require of our managerial staff, and so we can assure all of you that we are getting what we are paying for.

"Another part of *Transition* is to learn from the developer what dispo-

sition is to be made of the Community Center, golf course, model buildings and maintenance building. We will also be having documents such as deeds and purchase papers examined by Jim Mulligan, our attorney, to make sure that what we take control of is legally sound.

"Owners will be kept informed of *Transition* progress through *Heather 'n Yon*, area representatives, and by presentation by members of the Transition Committee. Everything will be done 'out front' so there will be no surprises for anyone."

— Glenn McQuillan

A few pages later, when reporting on board activities, it was noted that beginning in January 1983, a general manager would be employed. Developer EDI was asked by the Transition Committee to budget \$50,000 in the 1982 budget for transition expenses.

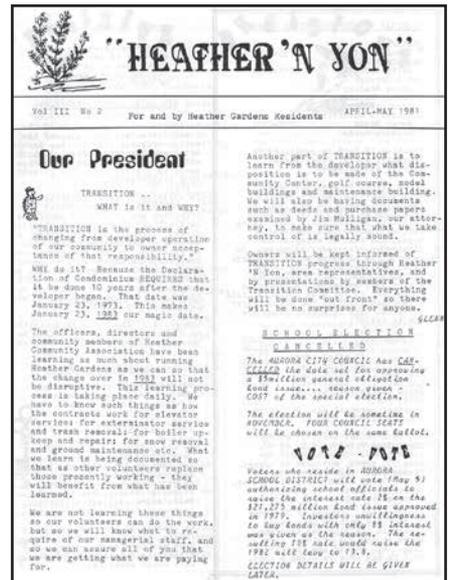
...

A few comparisons between *Heather 'n Yon*, Volume 3 and Volume 37, demonstrates changes in this community over 42 years.

Volume 3 was produced by typing stories (on different typewriters or using different type elements), 26 pages on regular paper on which columns were pasted, duplicated, then stapled. In fact, black/white graphics were provided by stickers or pasting original print-ready ads. The publication was published every other month — six even months of the year.

Volume 37 is 56 pages with advertising 50 percent or less. It is professionally printed by Publication Printers Corp. in 4-color. All type and graphics are produced on a desktop publishing program by Adobe: InDesign. Photoshop is used to crop, size and adjust color on photographs.

Volunteer staff in 1981 were Editor irene Scott, Assistant Editor



Vol 3, No. 2, Heather 'n Yon, April-May 1981, for and by Heather Garden Residents, details historical events at HG and contrasts to today's magazine.

Betty Bicknell; Art and Set-up by Leone Bradley, Louise Cullinan, and Harriett Wilson; business and advertising by Gener Woods and Barbara Marle.

All folks listed on page 3 of this issue who contribute to this magazine are paid and are part time.

By my count, advertising accounted for 10–15 pages that ranged from small resale condo ads to 1/2 page ads (\$7–\$32). Resident personal ads were 15¢ per word; \$2 minimum. Most advertisers would not be recognized by residents today. A few might be: Nicholas Agency (real estate sales, now HG Brokers); Chambers Wine & Liquors (which has recently stopped advertising); Fairmount Cemetery (a stalwart advertiser for many years); American Furniture Warehouse; Regatta Firestone (now gone). I remember buying tires at Regatta Firestone after my husband and I moved here.

deBeau's at the Gardens was the restaurant. They advertised an Easter Sunday Brunch with 1/2 roast duck (\$9.95) and 9-ounce N.Y. strip steak (\$9.95). Weekly Monday night specials included Roast Pork (\$5.95), Beef & Burgundy, (\$6.95), Stuffed Peppers (\$4.95) and Catfish/Chicken (\$5.95).

See facing page



Management

Updates on multiple projects at HG

By Jon Rea
Chief Executive Officer

Spring is seemingly here. Summer is right around the corner. We saw some nice weather during the closing days of April! The HG teams are diligently planning and working on many projects throughout the community. We have quite a few things happening right now!

The structural engineering firm came out at the end of March to evaluate Parking Structure 3 and to prepare specific projects within the maintenance plan for all parking structures.

In addition, our Accounting Department led by CFO Jerry Counts and Rubin Brown, business accounting consultant firm, recently completed the Audit of 2022. It was presented to both boards.

Comcast is continuing work onsite, wrapping up the South Town Home Residential Fiber project. It's been difficult with weather challenges. Overall, the process has moved smoothly. It appears the next step in the project will be to install fiber optic cables to the Alphas buildings — more to be revealed and communicated. Stay tuned!

The Roads & Grounds Department received their new Scag lawnmowers. You will see those deployed throughout the property soon. These lawnmowers have larger decks to cover more surface area when mowing. They are a bright orange color — they'll be easy to spot when in use!

The Contracts and Facilities teams have worked meticulously with outside vendors to identify and grade roof conditions on multi-story buildings. Once graded, the roofs that will be replaced this year were identified. Four roofs will be replaced this summer. The HGA Board approved the action at its April meeting. Contracts will be finalizing the plan and timing with the contractor.

I am sure you have noticed landscape workers at the HG Yale entrance in the last few weeks. Re-landscaping this entrance is part of a partnership HG is developing with the City of Aurora, Water Wise program. Adding drought tolerant plants throughout the entrance will provide beauty but will save on watering. Enhancing the overall look at the entrance became a priority this year because it is the first thing all drivers into HG see when entering the property.

The boards and the committees are reviewing procedure memorandums, looking at making these address current practices. Long-range planning continues to identify projects for the future. In addition, an ad-hoc committee is reviewing the Declaration of Condominium to update owner and HGA responsibilities, smoking policies, and insurance details. There may be many other things identified as the project continues.

HG has quite a few irons in the fire, so to speak. Many residents serving on the two boards, various committees, or participating in meetings continue to contribute and volunteer time to the effort of these various projects. HG staff in every department has been exceptionally dedicated to maintaining HG, its buildings, property, amenities and activities.

I welcome and encourage residents to attend community meetings. Come to my open forum (scheduled monthly, see page 30) or the quarterly "Meet & Greet." It truly does give me great feedback. I can assess the pulse of the community by the questions and comments shared at these meetings.

There have been several restaurants between deBeau's and Rendezvous. Remember Blossoms? I did not experience all of them. Maybe there are residents who remember the other restaurant names at HG.

A brief article about Security's budget explained what residents got for \$18,000:

- 24-hour on duty with periodic patrols was shared with Heather Ridge.
- An additional 40 hours/week of patrols for HG alone.

Security today still has challenges managing the people experiencing homelessness who have found HG, or those who target cars for stealing catalytic converters, valuables left in them or garage remotes. Patrolling is no longer shared with nearby communities.

Condos were listed for sale from \$47,950–115,000. There were several Realtors advertising. Today you can check several Realtors' ads for current pricing.

In 2022, HG condos sold for \$206,800–500,000, according to the annual insert that HG Brokers produces. (Sorry, I can't directly compare condos in 1981 to 2022 — not enough information in the earlier magazine.)

The next most numerous advertisers in 1981 were travel agencies. Need furniture or appliances? There were ads. Also included were ads for hair care, optometrists, storm doors, jewelry, TV repair, plumbers, printing services, medical equipment, ladies apparel, a bank, additional restaurants and an Ice Cream Shop.

Two concerns with condo living were written about — trash dispos-

al (package cans, bottles and other debris should land in dumpster, not around it) and "burping" or blocked sinks (garbage disposals don't take grease, chemical solvents, hair, metal objects or food waste like bones, corn cobs or melon rinds). It was noted that maintenance expenses increased when these problems had to be fixed often.

HG was getting ready for its 2-day Health Fair in early April 1981, sponsored by Channel 9, AARP, Breakfast Optimists and the Red Cross.

For context, the 1981 magazine listed members of Aurora City Council, their addresses and phone numbers. Dennis Champine was mayor. Mayor Pro-Tem Paul Tauer, Councilman-at-Large Steve Hogan, and City Manager Robert Broom were all names I recognized.



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Candidates...from page 5

A Pitera invitation to attend the event, sent out the Wednesday before (April 12), stated, "Each of the Candidates will do an introduction and will have the opportunity to answer the questions that were submitted by the community. This is your opportunity to find out what you need to know to make your vote count."

That the short time constraints kept candidates from saying much was not lost on the audience. Grumbling emerged early in the session, which was interrupted several times by the Zoom connection being lost that disconnected remote viewers. At the first interruption, one couple left Sandberg Auditorium, pronouncing the questions they heard Rasmussen read, "a sham."

At the end of the session, Rasmussen thanked the audience for adhering to the rules. He added that the candidates had been furnished with the selected questions the evening before, so they could prepare their answers.

Who selected the format and the pre-reviewed questions remains unknown.

What was obvious was:

1) The format barred interaction between candidates and the audience.

2) The times allowed for candidates to speak were so brief that, both the candidates running on the Candidates 4 Change platform (Rita Effler, Daniel Taylor, Robin O'Meara and Craig Baldwin) and the incumbent candidates (David Funk, Maria Mines), separately, announced an alternate time, prior to the election, that residents could attend, to hear candidates speak more expansively or answer questions. [This result left the sole independent candidate, Dave Bushman, with no one with whom to gather.]

3) Instructing the audience to sit quietly, just listen, and not speak — or they would risk ejection — was a surprising manner in which to treat voters, the electors of the HG Metropolitan District.

The quasi-governmental status of a special district, such as HGMD, requires it adhere to Colorado law in conducting its election. There is no requirement that a candidates forum be held, nor is there a required format.

Questions Provided to Candidates: April 15, 2023

1) How do you plan to reduce the costs of the subsidies (also known as Rec Fees) for the clubhouse, the restaurant, and the golf course?

2) Describe how you perceive your role as a board member as it relates to the management team, employees, and the community.

3) What changes would you like to see in the agreement between HGMD and HGA, and your thoughts on an outside management company.

4) Do you plan to offer any vegetarian entrees? Not all residents in this community eat meat. Will you consider healthier alternatives?

5) If elected, what would be the first three things you would do for the benefit of HG?

6) How do you view the Enterprise Advisory Group (the "EAG"), both positive and negative thoughts, in reference to the prior committees it replaced.

7) Hypothetically, if the management agreement was not renewed, how would you approach supporting the district and ensuring operations would be seamless?

A. Do you feel the community understands what dissolution of the management agreement means and the costs involved to do so?

B. How would you explain the costs to the community (if you agree

to not renew)

8) Obviously, all information cannot be made public, how would you handle making a difficult decision that may be perceived as unfavorable in the community, but you know differently that it is the correct decision?

9) Describe the requirements of the Board member's role and how you plan to commit to that role?

10) Describe your understanding of the governing documents and their role in community management?

11) What does fiduciary duty and responsibility mean to you?

12) Why do you desire to be a board member and what specific ideas will you bring regarding operations and directives?

13) How will you manage the board's responsibilities as defined by the Management Agreement?

14) What do you foresee as the biggest opportunity for the district? Why?

15) What do you see as the biggest challenge the district faces currently? Why?

16) How do you plan to build a relationship and establish trust with staff?

17) In your opinion, what makes a strong board member? How do you fit that description?

18) What's the first thing you would change within the community, district, or association? Why?

19) How do you interact with board members when an important issue arises?

20) Everybody has an agenda; based on experience, upbringing, and societal factors. How do you listen with an open mind to opinions that differ from your own and support them if implemented, even if they are different from your own?

21) Will you vote for an outside management company? How would this affect the budget?

22) How will the restaurant, golf and clubhouse function more efficiently by being reorganized into the Enterprise Advisory Group? What are the plans for improving these entities?

23) In the March *Heather 'n Yon*, it was mentioned that sound procedures will be established to comply with state law by segregating district and association assets and expenditures. What applicable law is referred to, and how would you accomplish this without unraveling the efficient accounting process set up 17 years ago?

24) With inflationary costs surrounding increasing costs of goods, materials, wages/benefits how do you plan to lower HOA costs?

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HGMD's Recreation fee: a tax in disguise; public review of budget

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD) used to maintain a polite distance, timewise, by finalizing its budget after HGA finalized its budget. The HGA budget contains "recreation fees" that are mandatory for HGA homeowners to pay. Those fees are then given to HGMD to subsidize its operations. That is why it made sense for HGMD to wait for HGA's budget.

The fees are not taxes, for the apparent reason that HGA has no authority to tax homeowners. However, HGMD, being a state government entity does have the authority to tax owners. A sizable portion of the property tax we pay on our homes goes to HGMD. So, are the recreation fees HGA collects on behalf of the HGMD a tax disguised as a fee?

It's a fee, provided HGMD accepts the money. It's a tax if HGMD demands the money. Fees are voluntary. Taxes are mandatory. Normally, a metropolitan recreation district, such as HGMD, collects user fees at the door from anyone using the facility. Those wanting to recreate pay the fee. Those not wanting to recreate don't. However, HGA's recreation fees are mandatory for all HG homeowners regardless of whether a homeowner uses HGMD recreational facilities.

It can be argued that the recreation fees are a tax in disguise. After all, HGA acts as "agent" for the HGMD and the mandatory fees it collects are turned over to HGMD. The only way around that is if HGA independently and of its own volition provides the fees. Proof of that is the ability of the homeowners to veto HGA's budget.

For instance, let's say that HGMD asks HGA to increase the recreation

fees by 20 percent and the homeowners object then veto HGA's budget. If that were to happen HGA and HGMD would ostensibly continue operations using the prior year's budget. As a result the recreation fees for HGMD would not increase. That, in my opinion, is the safety valve that keeps the fees from being a tax.

In October 2022, HGMD anticipated that homeowners might veto the budget and proactively finalized their budget prior to the veto vote. I asked HGA's CEO Jon Rea about this action. Wouldn't HGMD have to revise their budget if HGA's is vetoed? He replied that HGMD's budget would NOT change, implying that somehow HGA would be required to make up the difference.

If Rea was correct in saying that, then HGMD's subsidy would no longer be voluntary, but mandatory and thus would possibly be a violation of the Colorado State Constitution (TABOR, Article X, Section 20) that states in part, "Other limits on district revenue, spending, and debt may be weakened only by future voter approval." This article means that the creation of a tax or an increase in a tax must be approved by the voters (HGA residents) as a ballot issue subject to the restrictions imposed by TABOR's subsection (3) Election provisions.

Fortunately for HGMD last fall, the veto failed. The appropriate expression here is that "it's not illegal until a court says it is."

The HGMD Board has insisted that they were within the law in 2022. CRS Title 29, local government general provisions, specifies under Section 29-1-108: Adoption of budget, "(1) The governing body

of the local government shall hold a hearing to consider the adoption of the proposed budget, at which time objections of the electors of the local government shall be considered."

HGMD has until December 31 to adopt its budget for the following year. However, there is nothing I can find that says they can't do that in October, or that the acceptance of their proposed budget, the hearing on the proposed budget and the adoption and finalization of the budget can't be accomplished in a 22-minute-long meeting. Which is what they did on October 13, 2022.

While unprecedented, it appears they were within the letter of that law. But it would be a stretch to conclude that they followed the intent of the law.

By contrast, HGMD's 2017 budget proceedings — acceptance and amendment of the proposed 2018 budget occurred on October 25, 2017, followed by 43 days opportunity for comment from HG residents. Final approval of the proposed budget occurred at its December 7, 2017, meeting.

So, I will ask the question that was disallowed at the April 15 Meet the Candidates meeting, "What justification is there for reducing the public's opportunity for comment from 43 days in 2017 to less than 22 minutes in 2022?"

– Forrest McClure
CP2

{Disclaimer – the opinions expressed in this letter are those of a layperson. I am not an attorney, but I was an HGA director for four years and its president in 2015. I paid for the space to share these thoughts with HG residents.} **Paid Advertisement**





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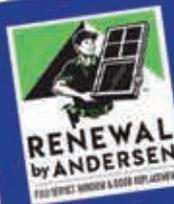
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The Month (April)

A self-contained traffic-speed sign appeared on East Marina Drive in mid-April, near the Northeast Lake. Powered by solar, the speed sign tells motorists who are traveling east what their driving speed is. Electronic-warning words are flashed: "Too Fast" or "Slow Down," if applicable.



The warnings appeared to work. All approaching vehicles that were observed hit their brakes when the words appeared.

Speed bumps were installed by the city on South Heather Gardens Way last year. Speed bumps for Marina had been discussed, as well; however, the traffic-speed sign seems to be how the city decided to control commuters zipping through HG.

...

A number of HG residents received a notice in the mail, in April, informing them that Starry Group Holdings, Inc, et al, had entered into Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization.

Some HG residents subscribe to Starry, to provide their internet services (no television or telephone).

The notice stated a confirmation hearing for the proposed plan will be on May 24, 2023, 1 pm (Eastern time) in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District in Delaware, in Wilmington. On March 31, a different bankruptcy court approved an amended plan, which the bankruptcy judge will consider on May 24. At that time, the judge can confirm the plan, or amend it.

The Chapter 11 reorganization covers 12 affiliated Starry entities. The notice stated, "Please take notice that you are receiving this notice because you or one of your affiliates is a counterparty to an executory contract or unexpired lease with one of more of the debtors" [Starry].

"If the plan is confirmed [in May]...it will be binding" on all Holders of Claims and Interests whether or not a particular Holder was entitled to vote..." the notice said. It added, "you are not entitled to vote to accept or reject the plan." The notice suggested the reader consult their own attorney.

Although sent to individual addresses, all mailings were addressed to: Heather Gardens Association, Jill Bacon. At the April 17 board meeting, President Bacon asked well-intentioned recipients to stop sending the mailings to her, as she had no idea why her name appeared on every envelope.

...



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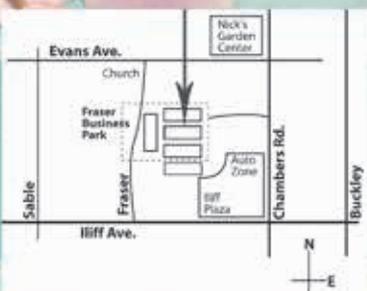
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That Was...

HG Optimists were honored for their Grandparents Program, which assists children with reading and other teacher-directed activities at Sixth Avenue Elementary School. Individual Optimist Member Sharon Davis was named a Denver 7 Everyday Hero, on April 17, by ABC Channel 7.

...

The newly formed Enterprise Advisory Group (EAG), under the HGMD, entertained its first formal project at the April 10 meeting. President David Funk chaired the group.

An in-limbo proposal from two years ago resurfaced, as resident Ajeeth Komar, B220, introduced a detailed written proposal to create a pet-friendly meditation/walking area where a vacant parking lot on East Marina Drive exists. In recent years, the parking lot was used as a staging area for construction materials, and as a work area to wood-chip downed tree limbs; however, it has no particular designated use.

The EAG was told about parking problems, city permits, fence sharing issues (with the wilderness area), and noise and waste concerns (from pets). The group requested additional study and information, then promised to revisit the issue, for possible recommendation, in May.

No cost estimates had been prepared for the April presentation. One group member wondered if lottery funds could defray costs. Another suggestion was to sell park passes as a money maker, with non-resident users charged at a higher rate.

In the early 2000s, HGMD discussed a similar proposal for a leash-free dog park in the same area. The idea was abandoned, primarily due to opposition voiced by residents of B215 and B216 across the street, regarding concerns about noise (dog barking) and pet waste.

...

An educational presentation to Garden Club members in April was "Grow Plants that Can Repel Mosquitoes." As mosquitoes have taken bites out of MOST of us in HG, it is time to join together to do all we can to prevent and control these pesky insects. The presentation discussed a wide range of plants that are purported to not only prevent mosquitoes but should be easy to incorporate into your patio, lanai gardens or in-ground gardens.

Handouts on the Mosquito-Repelling Plants will be available at the May meeting of the Garden Club for anyone who missed the April meeting.

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

Heather Gardens Green Team

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HEATHER GARDENS
BROKERS

Spring Craft Fair – March 24

There were some familiar vendors and some new ones — all to encourage residents to purchase items for the homes, grandchildren or the coming Easter and other holidays. Scarves, jewelry, books, cookies, or bread gave shoppers lots of options. Even the weather cooperated.



Photos by
Janis Farrell



Left: The 50th Anniversary Committee sold T-shirts, tote bags (sold out), and See's Candy. Ever tried a chocolate or butterscotch lollipop? Not bad...lasts a long time.



Bridgette Goes to Broadway
was the 2023 Spring Frolics show. HG residents collaborate and have fun while developing the performances on April 21, 22, 23.



Photos by Janis Farrell

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Lunch with a Cop

Sponsored by HG Security Department and the HGA Security, Emergency Preparedness Committee (SEC) on March 23 filled Rendezvous Restaurant with residents and guests from Aurora Police Department.



Above: HG Security Manager TJ Jones made introductions. Left: Organizer of the luncheon, Eilene Hogan, B203, was photographed with friends she has made after several years volunteering with the Aurora Police Department.

MAY CALENDAR

Mon 1	Men's Bridge (every Monday)	Skyview Room	10 am–2 pm
	HG Women's Book Club (Arce)	Mountain View Room	10:30 am–12:30 pm
	Spanish Club (every Monday)	Aspen Room	10 am–noon
	Texas Hold 'em Poker_Reddy or Hill (1st Monday)	Aspen Room	12:30–5 pm
	Time4Tap Dance Novice Group (every Monday)	Sandberg Auditorium	1–2 pm
	HG Women's Book Club (Urias)	Mountain View Room	1–3 pm
	Social Bridge (every Monday, Joanne Turner)	Library	1–3:30 pm
Tue 2	Mah Jongg (every Monday)	Blue Spruce Room	1–4 pm
	Guys Fun Golf	Golf Course	9 am
	Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tuesday)	Mountain View Room	12:30–4 pm
	Mixed Chorus Club (every Tuesday)	Skyview Room	1–2:30 pm
	Mah Jongg (every Tuesday)	Blue Spruce Room	1–4 pm
	Ping Pong (every Tuesday)	Game Room	2–3 pm
	Tennis Club	Rendezvous Restaurant	5 pm
Wed 3	Billiard Club Co-ed 8-Ball (every Tuesday)	Billiard Room	6:30 pm
	HG Ladies' Golf Scoring (every Wednesday)	Game Room	7:30 am–1 pm
	Cribbage (every Wednesday)	Sunburst Café	12:30–3 pm
	Rummikub (every Wednesday)	Library	1–3 pm
	HG ACBL Duplicate Bridge (every Wednesday)	Blue Spruce Room	1–4:45 pm
	Pinochle (every Wednesday)	Mountain View Room	1:30–4 pm
	Men's Poker_Reddy or Hill (every Wednesday)	Skyview Room	12:30–5 pm
Thu 4	Men's Poker	Game Room	3:30 pm
	CP1 Social	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	5 pm
	HG Men's Golf Club	Mountain View Room	6:30–8:30 pm
	Square Dancing Club (every 1st and 3rd Wednesday)	Sandberg Auditorium	7–9 pm
	Tai Chi (every Thursday)	Tennis Courts	8–11 am
	TOPS (every Thursday)	Blue Spruce Room	8:30–9:30 am
	Fun Gals Golf (every Thursday)	Golf Course	9 am
HG Optimist Club	Time4Tap Dance Group (every Thursday)	Rendezvous Restaurant	9:30 am
	Clubhouse Trip: Colorado Rockies Baseball	Sandberg Auditorium	11 am–noon
	Clubhouse Event: AARP Driver's Safety Course	B243 and B244	11:15 am
	Bunko (1st and 3rd Thursday)	Sandberg Auditorium	12:45–5 pm
	Social Bridge (every Thursday, Joanne Turner)	Blue Spruce Room	1–3:30 pm
	HG Writers Club (every Thursday)	Skyview Room	1–3:30 pm
	Ping Pong (every Thursday)	Mountain View Room	1–4 pm
	Meditation Club (every Thursday)	Game Room	2–3 pm
		Blue Spruce Room	4–5 pm

Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, May 1	Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday, by appointment), Arts & Crafts Room, 9 am–noon (see ad, p. 55)
Sat, May 6	The Green Team Shred Event, B250 Parking Lot, 9–10:45 pm (see ad, p. 23)
Thu, May 18	HG Republican Club movie, Sandberg Auditorium, 5 pm (see ad, p. 12)
Sat, May 20	Square Dance Party, Cherry Creek Retirement Center, 14555 E Hampden Ave, 2:30 pm (see ad, p. 4)



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Thu 4 (cont'd)	CP4 Social Kiwanis Club of Aurora Business Meeting 9-Ball Men's Billiards (every Thursday)	Rendezvous Skyview Room Billiards Room	5 pm 6 pm 7–9 pm
Fri 5	Men with Purpose (1st and 3rd Friday) St. Rita's Amazing Bookstore Texas Hold 'em Poker_Reddy or Hill (every Friday) Social Bridge (every Friday, Joanne Turner) Muu-Muu Hula Group (every Friday) Clubhouse Event: Smithtonian's Handbells	Skyview Room Clubhouse Parking lot Mountain View Room Skyview Room Arts & Crafts Room Sandberg Auditorium	10–11 am 10 am–noon 12:30–7 pm 1–3:30 pm 1:30–3 pm 7–8:30 pm
Sat 6	Clubhouse Event: Green Team Annual Shred Event Mexican Train Dominoes (every Saturday) Ping Pong (every Saturday) Karaoke Club	B250 Parking Lot Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	9–10:45 am 1–4 pm 2–3 pm 3–5 pm
Mon 8	VNA Senior Wellness Clinics (2nd & 4th Mondays) Bridge (second Monday) Texas Hold 'em Poker_Reddy or Hill (2nd–4th Monday) East Bates Game Night	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room Aspen Room Mountain View Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	8:30 am–1 pm noon–4 pm 12:30–5 pm 4–6 pm
Tue 9	Masked Warriors dedicate Golf Course bench Clubhouse Event: Mountain Man Fruit and Nut Co. Tuesday Evening Bridge (2nd & 4th Tuesday)	Lake at #9 tee box Clubhouse Lobby Blue Spruce Room	11:30 am 2:15–3:15 pm 5:30 pm
Wed 10	Clubhouse Event: National Parks Aviation Club	Sandberg Auditorium Aspen Room	2 pm 6:30 pm
Thu 11	Clubhouse Event: Mobile Food Pantry Green Team Men's Poker (Jess Deal; 2nd and 4th Thursday) RV Lot Club	B243/B244 Parking Lot Blue Spruce Room Game Room Aspen Room	10 am noon–2 pm 3:30–7:30 pm 5–6 pm
Fri 12	Birding and Nature Club HG Indivisible Clubhouse Event: Fire Prevention and Safety	Lodgepole Lounge Skyview Room Sandberg Auditorium	10 am 11:45 am 1–3 pm
Sat 13	The Breakfast Club Ladies Tennis Club	Rendezvous Restaurant Picnic Pavilion	8:30 am 11 am–2 pm
Mon 15	HG Photo Club LRC Game Night (McClaury)	Aspen Room Aspen Room	3 pm 5:30–7:30 pm
Tue 16	Caregiver's Support Group B201 and B202 Monthly Social Ward V Town Hall Meeting with Alison Coombs	Aspen Room Rendezvous Restaurant Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	2–4 pm 4:30 pm 6 pm
Wed 17	Square Dancing Club (every 1st and 3rd Wednesday)	Sandberg Auditorium	7–9 pm
Thu 18	HG Optimist Club Unpacking the Society We Live In Clubhouse Event: Memorable Mothers Bunko HG Republican Club Movie Night Kiwanis Club of Aurora – Guest Speaker	Rendezvous Restaurant Skyview Room Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room Sandberg Auditorium Skyview Room	9:30 am 10 am–noon 1–2 pm 1–3:30 pm 5 pm 6 pm

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Fri 19	Men with Purpose (1st and 3rd Friday) Clubhouse Event: Bingo	Skyview Room Sandberg Auditorium	10 am 1–3 pm
Sat 20	50th Anniversary: Fitness Walk and Showcase Tennis Club Picnic Wine and Cheese Social Club Clubhouse Event: Retro Music Group Dance	Sandberg Auditorium Picnic Pavilion Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Sandberg Auditorium	8:30 am–12:30 pm noon–3 pm 3–5 pm 6–9 pm
Mon 22	VNA Senior Wellness Clinics Low Vision Support Group HG Garden Club	Blue Spruce Room Aspen Room Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	9 am–1 pm 1:30–3 pm 6 pm
Tue 23	HG Republican Club HG Democratic Club Sevillians Monthly Dinner Tuesday Evening Bridge (2nd & 4th Tuesday)	Sandberg Auditorium Sandberg Auditorium Rendezvous Restaurant Blue Spruce Room	1–2:30 pm 4–5:30 pm 4:30–6 pm 5:30 pm
Wed 24	Clubhouse Event: Arapahoe County Assessor Clubhouse Event: Colorado Senior Property Tax	Lodgepole Lounge Lodgepole Lounge	9 am–3 pm 1–3 pm
Fri 26	Clubhouse Movie: 80 for Brady	Sandberg Auditorium	2 pm
Sat 27	National Federation of the Blind, Aurora Chapter	Mountain View Room	10:30 am–12 pm
Sun 28	Frolics: Introduction to Acting	Sandberg Auditorium	2–4 pm
Mon 29	Clubhouse Event: Memorial Day Celebration Federal Holiday – Management Offices Closed	Sandberg Auditorium	10–11 am
Wed 31	Resident Orientation	Board Room/Zoom	10 am

Heather 'n Yon Deadline - 5/17

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

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

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

Six Stone Jars Catholic Bible Study. For information, call Eric Cline, 720-839-4289, or email clinecellars57@yahoo.com.

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

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

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

- **Sunday Bible Study:** 10 am, Mountain View Room. Leader: Pastor Bill Cheyne.

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

• Monthly Meetings • Boards and Committees

Listed meetings will be in the Board Room or Zoom.

SEC (Zoom) – 1 pm Mon, May 1

CECC (Zoom) – 10 am Tue, May 2

Civic Affairs (BR/Zoom) – 2:30 pm Fri, May 5

Enterprise Advisory Grp (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Mon, May 8

Maintenance (Zoom) – 10 am Tue, May 9

Foundation (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Wed, May 10

Joint Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Thu, May 11

Personnel Policy (Zoom) – 10 am Fri, May 12

Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Mon, May 15

HGA Board (Zoom) – 1 pm Tue, May 16

Resident Open Forum (BR/Zoom) – 3 pm Wed, May 17

ACC (Zoom) – 10 am Thu, May 18

HGMD Board (BR/Zoom) – 1 pm Thu, May 18

Resident Orientation (Zoom) – 10 am Wed, May 24

Joint Long Range Plan (BR/Zoom) – 10 am Thu, May 25

FYI

VNA Senior Wellness Clinics

Charges: Toenail Cutting (includes blood pressure) \$60 (1st visit, 1 hour), \$55 (returning client); Fingernail trim \$25. If you cannot keep your appointment, please cancel or you will be charged \$5. Have exact cash amount, credit card, or checks made out to "VNA." The clinic has no change. Call VNA, 845-418-4006

- Monday, May 8, 8:30 am–1 pm, Blue Spruce Rm
- Monday, May 22, 8:30 am–1 pm, Blue Spruce Rm

See FYI...page 51

Letters

Heather 'n Yon

Patt Clark raised an interesting question in reference to recirculation pumps. It has bothered me since I moved here, especially since the drought conditions have hit so hard.

I live in a Somerset building. We have recirculating pumps in the kitchen. The two baths do not. I cringe every time I need hot water in my sink or the shower and think of the waste of water going down the drain.

I would like to see HG install recirculating pumps in all of the buildings that don't have them. I would imagine it would save a staggering amount of water.

**Dave Loomis
B221**

Heather 'n Yon

On March 21, I was walking around the big circle at the Golf Course with my husband. My husband uses a walker. When we got back home at our Country Place in CP3, my husband was lifting up his walker when the wheel fell off.

Well, thankfully, I was on the step and was able to catch the walker and

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

my husband as they were going over.

I went back and walked the Golf Course two times trying to find the screw that fell out. I stopped at the Clubhouse Activities Desk to see if anybody had turned it in. The lady said no and suggested I go to the Golf Shop as they are the ones who take care of the path.

Well, Greg told me to call number three on their phone line — it would be the maintenance part that answered. It ended up being Brian Benko.

Brian immediately sent out the picture that I had enclosed. It took about 10 minutes before I got the phone call from Brian saying they had found the bolt. I couldn't believe it!

Thank you so much, Brian and your crew with your assistance. We really appreciate you!

**Colleen Duke
CP3**

Heather 'n Yon

My letter is a response to HG's email on April 3 regarding Canada goose management on HG property. I am concerned that many people did not see the post because few people would scroll through five paragraphs to the end.

Geese are important to me. During 2020, I was stressed about Covid. People lost loved ones, were quarantined, isolated and worried about mask mandates, empty grocery shelves, and finding hand sanitizer or Clorox wipes.

The company I worked for terminated all employees. I was a new resident at HG. I was at my wit's end.

One day I decided to take a walk. That is when I first met the Canada geese and their goslings. I became

fascinated! I began to walk every day just to see the families of geese.

I researched them. This focus helped me pull myself together. I wrote a children's book with the geese as main characters that was published on Amazon.

In spring 2021, I took photos of the geese. I met people who are also fascinated with the goslings. I was given the name "Mother Goose" by my neighbors. In spring 2022, I did videos with my phone. These geese have transformed my life! I finally became happy.

The gander protects his family. The goose-mom takes 1.5 days to lay each egg. She must turn them constantly. The geese constantly must be on the lookout for predators. Could you imagine this stress?

They take their goslings to the water the day they are born.

The goslings sometimes pile on top of each other to keep warm. They grow flight feathers about 10 weeks. They have practice sessions on flying taught by the parents.

They migrate shortly before Labor Day weekend.

I am extremely appalled that HG will haze the geese eggs (covering them with corn oil — suffocating the embryo) and using dogs to find the nests.

Not many geese returned this year. Destroying the eggs is inhumane and disgusting.

How much is this going to cost?

**Lola Hock
B207**

{Editor's Note: From the Pitera email to all subscribed residents on April 3:

The Colorado Goose

As a proactive effort to control the ever-growing goose populations on the See Letters...page 33

HGMD Foundation

Dedication of the bench purchased by Foundation and the Mask Warriors will take place 11:30 am Tuesday, May 9, on the Golf Course.

Since HGMD is a government entity, donations to the Foundation can be claimed as a charitable deduction on Federal income tax.

Recent Donations to the General Fund 2023:

- B217 in memory of Bill Whitus
- B207 in memory of Lorraine Salazar
- Chis and Don Anderson in memory of Rosemarie Kelley

Donations to the Tree Fund

- B234 in memory of Marquita Antuna and Betty Dadisman

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

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Letters...from page 31

property, Heather Gardens has registered with Wildlife Service for Permit to prevent eggs from hatching.

This effort is scheduled for April, May, and possibly June 2023.

Terry Hardey...will be on the property performing the work. Terry has been performing geese deterrence in the Denver Metro area since 2002. In addition, Terry hazed geese successfully for 10 years at Heather Gardens. Terry has a lifetime of experience in agriculture and animal husbandry. She loves dogs and has an abiding respect for all bird wildlife.

As a reminder to everyone, please keep your distance from dogs and handlers and allow them to focus on their job. Please do not interfere.

Note to dog owners and walkers: We anticipate nests to be near ponds. But, if you notice a hidden nest under a shrub or in tall grass, feel free to call 720-974-6912 so we can map its location. For more information: Colorado Parks & Wildlife - Canada Goose.}

Heather 'n Yon

I contacted Kathy in Maintenance and requested an install of six fluorescent tubes. Four were in kitchen; two were in the master bathroom.

I bought six 48-inch GE tubes at Home Depot. These are the newly designed type that *do not* require ballast change outs. Enrique did not know about these.

Upon arrival he said they would have to change out the ballast. I advised him that was not needed with these newer units.

He was in the kitchen for 17 minutes. Then we went to the bathroom. I bought only 48-inch tubes, not any 36-inch.

Enrique left with my 4 used fluorescent tubes and packaging for the new style tubes.

I called Kathy. She checked with Enrique. He said there *would be another charge*, \$55, for the two 36-inch bathroom tubes.

I find this *unconscionable*, in every shape and form.

**Lee Keene
B223**

Heather 'n Yon

Helen Louise (Chase) Cheatham, born April 7, 1926, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, passed on April 11, 2023, peacefully at age 97. She was adored by her late husband, Bob, for whom she was a loving companion and best friend during their 62 years of marriage. She is survived by 5 children; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Holding leadership positions on the debate team and Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, she gained the nickname of "Sunny" for her cheerful disposition. After graduating magna cum laude with a degree in accounting and minor in physics, she worked at Johns-Manville corporate headquarters in New York City.

Helen married Robert W. Cheatham on April 29, 1950. She chose to spend the next 20 years as a stay-at-



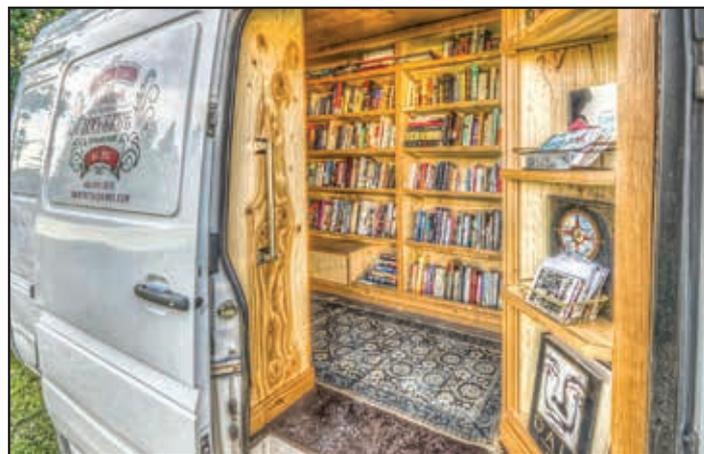
Heather 'n Yon

St. Rita's Amazing Traveling Bookstore is just that — a bookstore that travels all over the United States with great used books (above and below). You might think it is just a van but then you go inside and WOW!

It is really a bookstore with floor to ceiling shelves all neatly arranged so you can find your favorite authors or chance upon something new. This traveling bookstore has passed through Aurora and Denver before, but this is the first time it will be setting up at HG Clubhouse.

Stop by to experience it: 10 am–noon Friday, May 5, Clubhouse Parking Lot. Say "Hi" to owner Rita Collins.

Connie Stewart, B233



home mom in North Plainfield, New Jersey, and Denver, Colorado.

After the couple moved to Heather Gardens for the last active years of their retirement, Helen played golf in the women's league, with Bob, or any other family members when given the chance.

A master gardener, she took the lead in caring for flower beds outside their condominium building. Continuing a healthy active lifestyle, Helen enjoyed walking, golf, singing and travel.

Helen spent her final years at MorningStar Assisted Living & Memory Care at Jordan. The family will have a private Celebration of Life this summer.

**Nancy Abeyta
nancy3779@gmail.com**

Clubs and Organizations

HG Women's Book Club

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

Mixed Chorus Club

The Mixed Chorus Club meets every Tuesday, 1–2:30 pm, Skyview Room. Everyone come sing for fun. For information: Tom Kappel, 720-377-5756.

CP1

Happy hour is the first Wednesday of each month, 5 pm, Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms. On May 3, we will enjoy a taco bar.

We will meet in the Clubhouse, in April and May, then plan to begin our outdoor cul-de-sac gatherings in June. Watch your emails for details. – Tammi, 303-618-5345; Carolyn, 720-290-9908.

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 Bonnie Meerkatz, 970-667-4839.

Optimist Club

The club holds regular meetings on first and third Thursday of each month for breakfast in Rendezvous Restaurant, 9:30 am. We invite current and new potential members to

attend. We have a delicious breakfast buffet, socialize and hear from a speaker.

Our mission is to serve our community and focus on youth to make a more optimistic future. We have many fun and worthwhile outreaches projects. Contact Darlene Park, 303-798-5088, with questions.

HG Writers Club

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

CP4

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

Kiwanis Club of Aurora

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

Men with Purpose

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

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

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.

Aviation Club

The club meets the second Wednesday of each month (May 10), 7 pm, Aspen Room. You do not have to be a veteran, a pilot, or a mechanic — just have an interest in airplanes and aviation in general.

This month's program will be on the F-15E Strike Eagle, one of the best fighters in the world today. Several U.S. allies fly the F-15. An Israeli pilot survived a mid-air collision on a training flight that destroyed an older A4 Skyhawk and took off the right wing of the F-15! I won't tell anymore now as it would ruin the rest of the story, as Paul Harvey used to say... but a *very interesting* story. – Rudy Morris

The Green Team

The Shred Event is coming 9 am Saturday, May 6. Gather all your old tax papers and ancient documents, and bring them to the B250 (golf) parking lot starting at 9 am.

You can drop off your boxes or stay and watch them being shredded. Just \$5 for every 1–2 boxes. Of course we will take more. Shredding will go until 10:45 am. Please help us by removing all metal clamps (paper clips are okay) and plastic spiral binders. Please check each box in advance.

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

RV Lot Club

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

We meet the second Thursday of each month, 5–6 pm, Aspen Room. Happy trails and safe travels!

Birding and Nature Club

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

HG Indivisible

The HG Indivisible group meets on the second Friday of the month, 11:45 am–12:45 pm, Skyview Room. After the meeting, for those wishing to join us, we will go to lunch at 1 pm, Rendezvous Restaurant.

The HG Indivisible group is an informal network of citizens concerned about the increasing role of anonymous big money groups infusing elections with dark money and disinformation. We are concerned about the interlocking catastrophes of a rigged democracy, global pandemic, unimaginable and growing wealth inequality, racial injustice, and the escalating impacts of the climate crisis. The group also sends out a newsletter several times a month with events, articles, and action items relating to defending our democracy. Contact me if you want to receive the newsletter.

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

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.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it is larger with 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

Caregivers Support Group

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

B201 and B202

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

Unpacking The Society We Live In

You are invited to participate in a new discussion group, starting in May. Unpacking The Society We Live In meets every third Thursday of the month, 10 am–noon, Skyview Room. Social-justice issues are discussed in a roundtable format. Please bring materials to share/discuss. The facilitators are Bernie Hupperts, marlynber@gmail.com; and Diane Pritchard, dianekpritchard@gmail.com. – Diane Pritchard

Wine & Cheese Social Club

We meet on the third Saturday of every month. Join us at 3–5 pm Saturday, Feb. 18, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. Bring a beverage and snack to share. Entertainment is provided. For more information, Debbie Brooks, 303-691-2715.

HG Garden Club

In May, our meeting will be a week earlier – May 22 – due to the Memorial Day Holiday. Meetings are 6 pm in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms.

In June, we will resume meeting on the last Monday of the month (June 26). All gardeners who are interested in joining or being added to the email notification list about this and other local gardening events are invited to contact Nancy Linsenbigler, text/call 720-932-6990, or nancy@nancylinsenbigler.com.

Members enjoyed being back together, after the winter break, at the February potluck. The March and April meetings focused on a range of topics and group discussions, to help gardeners get ready for this year's growing season.

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.

Low Vision Support

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

HG Republican Club

General Meeting: 1–2:30 pm Tuesday, May 23, in Sandberg Auditorium. “Colorado Update” is the topic of this general session.

Speakers: Sue Moore, from Colorado Liberty Scorecard, will provide an update on the Colorado State Legislative Session 2023. We are also excited to welcome newly elected Colorado Republican Party Chair David Williams, who will share his goals and direction for the party. Jono Scott, Candidate for Aurora City Councilman-At-Large, will stop by to introduce himself to members.

HGRC Movie Night: 5 pm Thursday, May 18, social and snacks; movie starts at 5:45 pm, Sandberg Auditorium, “Whose Children Are They? Exposing the Hidden Agenda in America’s Schools.”

Annual membership dues are \$15/person. We look forward to all membership renewals and new members. Guests are always welcome. For information regarding paying dues, email hgrclub@gmail.com. – Robin O’Meara, President

“One flag, one land, one heart, one hand, one nation evermore!” – Oliver Wendell Holmes, poet

HG Democratic Club

The club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 4–5:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. Our purpose is to educate ourselves and Democratic candidates on the issues and to support the Constitution, the rule of law and good government.

The topic for May 23 will be what happened (or didn’t) in the recent Colorado legislative session, and what is happening in the Aurora City Council. There will be a few city council candidates present, as well as Representative Iman Jodeh and

See Clubs...page 46

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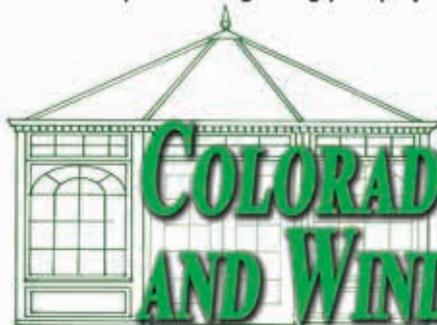


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Sports and Recreation

Men's Monday Bridge

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

Pickleball

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

Club play will be 10 am–noon, or later, daily on the courts by the HG Clubhouse, weather permitting. We are also encouraging Wednesday afternoon play at 3 pm.

Visit our club's website <https://www.hgpickle.org/>. It is typically updated by 7:30 am, if we know play will be canceled or delayed due to weather. On most web browsers, you will find us by typing [hgpickle.org](https://www.hgpickle.org/).

For information, contact Phil Hughes 303-503-7633, phdenver@comcast.net, or Ron Hileman, 720-256-7477, ronhileman@gmail.com.

Social Bridge

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

Time4Tap Dance Group

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

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

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

Monday Mah Jongg

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

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

Men's Poker & Texas Hold 'em

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

Tennis Club

Our play times in May are Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 9–11 am. Times will change in June to 8–10 am.

Please consider dusting off your racquet and playing with this friendly group. Instruction and brush-up play is available. If you have questions, call Mark Merrill, 941-350-8455.

Our Spring tennis-member picnic is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, noon–3 pm.

We have monthly business/social meetings at the Rendezvous Restaurant. Our next scheduled meeting is 5 pm Tuesday, May 2. – Jill Taylor

Guy's Fun Golf

Here's your chance to get a round of golf in on a weekly basis with no fuss, no muss and no pres-

sure. We will have three tee times (more, if needed) reserved, starting at 9 am each Tuesday morning. Just let me know if you want to play on a weekly basis, to free up tee times, if not needed. We will use a blind-draw system to decide the tee time to which you will be assigned.

To register, call Jake Flint, 303-845-0541, by noon the day before, to reserve your slot each week. We will meet on the Rendezvous Patio, after golf, for those who are thirsty or hungry, or both, to cuss and/or discuss our rounds of golf, and other worldly issues. – Jake Flint

Hand (Knee) and Foot

Also known as Tripleplay, is a variation of Canasta. Fun and easy to learn. We meet every Tuesday, 12:30–4 pm, Mountain View Room. Call Kevin Keator 303-699-4641, or just show up.

Tuesday Mah Jongg

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

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

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

Billiard Club

The club meets for Co-ed 8-Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in before 6:15 pm to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 pm on Thursdays.

Annual dues of \$12 are payable on 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 Results March 21

1st Jack Doherty, Dee Moore
2nd Gil Lochhead, Mark Bonsell

3rd Linda Davenport,
Judy Brehmer

March 28

1st Dee Moore, Roger Goldstein
2nd Brian Bucenec, Judy Hein
3rd Chuck Toner, Sharon Weiss

April 4

1st Ed Harvey, Shannon Boyd
2nd Gil Lochhead team
3rd Scott Crow, Sharon Weiss

April 11

1st Roger Goldstein,
Judy Brehmer
2nd Gil Lochhead, Mary Frevert

9-Ball Results March 16

1st John Manzanares
2nd Kenny Diaz
3rd Ed Harvey

March 23

1st John Manzanares
2nd Brian Bucenec
3rd Steve Hesser

March 30

1st Brian Bucenec
2nd Doug Miller
3rd John Manzanares

April 6

1st Doug Miller
2nd John Manzanares

April 13

1st Brian Bucenec
2nd John Manzanares
3rd Jack Doherty

Afternoon Cribbage

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

Rummikub

This club meets 1–3 pm on Wednesdays, in the Library. We play in groups of 4–6. Stop by, or call Joanne, 719-641-3644. If you can't make Wednesdays — call. We can see about setting up other days and times. — Joanne Turner

HG ACBL Duplicate Bridge

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

Pinochle

We play for fun and friendship. We start at 1:30 pm, and end at

4 pm, every Wednesday in the Mountain View Room. Join us if you'd like to play, learn, or just sharpen your skills. Call Diane, 707-799-6449 or 6446. We look forward to seeing you.

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.

HG Ladies Golf Club

It is finally here — the 2023 season for the HG Ladies Golf Club. This year, the club boasts 103 members, with 16 ladies new to the club and 30 nonresident players.

Club President Sara Stoner has designated 2023 as the year of "inclusivity." (Yes, it is a real word!) Her goal is to ensure that club activities are structured so that everyone becomes acquainted and — most importantly — has fun both golfing and at the club's social activities.

New for 2023: scorecard collection. The method of exchanging your scorecard with another player will continue this year. Completed cards will be deposited in the scorecard box, then collected for review by the scorekeeping team. Volunteer scorekeepers will no longer sit in the scoring room all day waiting for players to complete their rounds and turn in score cards.

Each club member will be responsible for seeing that the card she deposits includes the following information: name, flight, handicap, score, putts, Play of the Day (if applicable), signature of scorer, signature of attester, and date. Cards that are not signed, dated and attested may be disqualified for that week's tournament play.

If the scorekeeping team finds a correctable error (e.g., addition, sub-

traction), that error will be corrected. Decisions made by the scoring team regarding disqualification are final. Please support the scoring team by completing your card correctly before turning it in.

Monthly Shotgun Start — to help members get to know one another — the club is instituting a monthly shotgun start day. (Refer to membership book for dates.) Players will be randomly assigned to a foursome. When the round is completed, everyone will meet in the scoring room to check, sign, date and attest cards. Hopefully, this process will promote more socializing than normal.

Starting times will be adjusted based on the month, to allow play to be completed before the heat of the summer days sets in. In May, the start times are:

May 3, 10 — 8 am

May 17, 24, 31 — 7 am

The club kicked off the year with its annual Spring Luncheon on April 5. Social Committee Chair Lisa Matthews and her committee planned and delivered a wonderful event for the nearly 60 members.

2023 Calendar of Events (near term)

June 12: Men's and Ladies Mixer

As other events are added, they will be publicized.

All women who are interested in league play are invited to join HGLGC, regardless of skill level. Detailed information and membership applications are available at the HG Pro Shop and on our website, www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com.

The next board meeting is 1 pm Wednesday, May 31, Board Room. All members are welcome to attend. Minutes from board meetings are posted on the club's website after each meeting.

Welcome to a new feature, Meet a Member, where I interview one fabulous lady golfer — Judy Bloom. Judy has lived at HG for two years, joining the HGLGC this year after meeting other members around the property who played golf. She has played golf most of her adult life but, readily admitted, that having to abide

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- Darla L. 4/05/2023

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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

Clubhouse Manager Montrell Anthony

Assistant Clubhouse Manager Julie Racich

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

AARP Driver's Safety Course

Thursday, May 4, 12:45–5 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
Fee: \$20 AARP members, \$25 non-members (cash or
check to instructor, no credit cards); registration required,
303-751-1811 (extension 5). Class size is limited to 25.

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

Smithsonian Handbell Ensemble

Friday, May 5, 7–8:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
Cost: \$8 pre-register; \$10 on the day of the event.

No cancellations or refunds after Wednesday, May 3.
Register early — limited seats.

The Smithsonian Handbell Ensemble, based in
Littleton, is a full choir of 13 ringers plus one. It was found-
ed in 1983 and plays a variety of exciting music including
“Allegro Glorioso”, “March of the Dwarfs”, “Shenandoah”,
“Baby Elephant Walk”, “Luna” — a very exciting and diffi-
cult piece from Japan, and “Ukrainian Lullaby.” This event
always sells out — get your tickets early.

Shred Event

Saturday, May 6, 9–10:45 am
B250 Parking Lot, 2868 S Heather Gardens Wy
HG Green Team is hosting its annual Shred Event.
The shred truck will be onsite. To have two standard file
boxes shredded = \$5. Do not *bring papers* in plastic bags.
Please remove all binder clips. Sponsored by St. An-
drew's Village, Oak St. Health, Bayer Ear Clinic, Fairfield
by Marriott and Heather Gardens Brokers.

Mountain Man Nut & Fruit Co. will be in the Clubhouse
Lobby, 2:15–3:15 pm Tuesday, May 9. They will sell nuts,
seeds, snacks, candies, dried fruits and trail mix.

Active Minds: The National Parks

Wednesday, May 10, 2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE: Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5

The world's first national park, Yellowstone, was cre-
ated by an 1872 act of Congress. Today, the national park
system includes more than 400 units (63 national parks),

with more than 84 million acres of land, and hosts more
than 300 million visitors annually. We tell the story of the
system and highlight notable parks and their stories.

Mobile Food Market

Thursday, May 11, 10 am–noon (or until food runs out),
Parking Lot B243 and B244 on East Marina Drive
FREE

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

Fire Prevention and Safety Training Course

Friday, May 12, 1–3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE, Reservations required, call 303-751-1811 x5

We will be hosting a Fire Prevention & Safety Course
that is beneficial to all.

Memorable Mothers with Kathleen Arnold

Thursday, May 18, 1–2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5

With their words, actions, and unconditional love,
mothers have a profound influence not only on their
children, but on people all over the world. To celebrate
Mother's Day, Arnold will describe some of history's most
memorable Mothers. Sponsored by Cherry Creek Retirement
Village and Garden Plaza of Aurora.

Bingo!

Friday, May 19, 1–3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
FREE: Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5.

Snacks will be provided. Register early,!

Retro Music Group Dance

Saturday, May 20, 6 pm, Sandberg Auditorium
Cost: \$10. Reservations required, 303-751-1811 ext. 5

Retro is one of Denver's premier acoustic perfor-
mance groups that plays a wide range of folk/rock/coun-
try and blues music. Twelve string guitars, appropriate
percussion, soaring harmonies, and strong vocals, of-
fer a full-bodied performance that will have you dancing
and singing along. The group performs songs everyone
knows and loves from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s. You
will be amazed at how well you remember these songs,
some of which you may not have heard in decades.

We will have snacks, plus wine and beer for \$6.

Questions About Your Condo's Notice of Valuation from the Arapahoe County Assessor's Office?

Wednesday, May 24, 9 am–3 pm, Lodgepole Lounge
FREE: Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5.

The Arapahoe County Assessor's Office will be mail-
ing the 2023 Notices of Valuation to property owners on
May 1. Members of the Arapahoe County Assessor's staff

will be on-site to discuss property values with HG property owners. If you have questions or concerns regarding your 2023 assessed valuation, you may speak with an appraiser on this date.

Senior Exemptions on Property Tax

Wednesday, May 24, 1–3 pm, Lodgepole Lounge

FREE, Reservations required, call 303-751-1811 x5

In the November 2000 election, Colorado voters passed a Property Tax Exemption for seniors, known as Referendum A. With property taxes increasing as home valuations increase, it might be time to check your status. The following criteria must be met to get the exemption:

1) The qualifying senior must be at least 65 years old on January 1 of the year in which he or she applies

2) The qualifying senior must be the property owner of record and must have been so for at least 10 consecutive years prior to January 1

3) The qualifying senior must occupy the property as his or her primary residence and must have done so for at least 10 consecutive years prior to January 1.

For those who qualify, 50 percent of the first \$200,000 of actual value of the applicant's primary residence is exempted. There will be a representative from Arapahoe County available on May 24, 9 am–3 pm at HG to answer your questions and help complete the forms. Applications are due before July 15, to get the exemption on 2023 taxes, payable in 2024.

Movie Matinee: *80 for Brady*

Friday, May 26, 2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

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

Reservation required, 303-751-1811, x5

80 for Brady is a 2023 American sports comedy film directed by Kyle Marvin, written by Sarah Haskins and Emily Halpern, and produced by former NFL quarterback Tom Brady. The film follows four lifelong friends who travel to watch Brady and his New England Patriots play in Super Bowl LI in 2017. Billy Porter, Rob Corddry, Alex Moffat, and Guy Fieri also star.

Memorial Day Celebration

Monday, May 29, 10–11 am, Sandberg Auditorium

FREE, Reservations required, call 303-751-1811 x5

Technical Sergeant Gerald Williams of Buckley Air Force Base will be a Guest Speaker. We will be recognizing HG residents who have served in the military and those service personnel who have passed. Retired military Chaplain Bill Cheyne will do the Invocation and Benediction. Sam Pitzen, B243, will present the wreath. A POW remembrance table will remember all who gave

Clubhouse News:

- Outdoor Pool opens Monday, May 29. Families with children are welcome 10 am–noon every day. Indoor Pool will be closed to children until Labor Day.
- Join HG's Facebook page for updated information on events: *Heather Gardens Association*

their lives for every U.S. citizen's freedom. Uncle Ruckus Band will entertain. Light snacks to follow.

Class Registration Training

Monday, June 19, 12 noon–4 pm, Lodgepole

Cost: FREE

Would you like to skip the lines for class registration at the clubhouse? Want to get into an amazing class from the comfort of your own home? Learn how from Karen Gold. Bring your mobile device or learn on Karen's laptop. Bring notebook and pen to take notes. Come anytime between noon and 4pm. Karen will walk through the steps to get signed up for classes from your own device. The next class sign up is June 21 and maybe you could get registered from the comfort of your own home!

Heather Gardens Annual Flea Market

Friday, June 23 and Saturday, June 24

Deadline to purchase table: June 9; visit the Activities Desk or call 303-751-1811, ext 5

Do you have items you no longer need or are taking up space you could use for something else? HG Annual Flea Market can help you with that problem! Tables are limited to HG residents only so don't miss out. Limited to one 8-foot table or two 6-foot tables in Sandberg Auditorium, large items will be placed on the stage. This event is advertised within HG and on social media.

Heather Gardens Trips

Dixie's Cherry Bombs & Bottle Rockets

Saturday, July 8, 7:30 pm, Ellie Caulkins Opera House

Fee: \$72, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5

Deadline for tickets/cancellations: June 21

From the creator of Dixie's Tupperware Party, it's in moments of crisis that you really find out what you're made of. Do you ever wake up at 2:30 in the afternoon to discover that there is a global pandemic which makes your kids' schools shut down, so you have to raise them yourself? What kind of nonsense is that? If there's one thing, we all have in common, it's that we are fundamentally different people than we were just two years ago. What have you learned? What did you try? How did you cope? How heavy was your recycling bin from all the empty bottles? When life seems to get too crazy, it's time to strap on your big-girl boots, grab your breakfast vodka and light off a few Cherry Bombs & Bottle Rockets. There's nothing better than walking into your new self with a bang!

A charter bus will pick up residents between B243 and B244 on E Marina Drive at 5:30 pm, returning approximately 10:30 pm.

Pikes Peak Cog Rail Trip

Thursday, July 20, Manitou Springs

Charter bus leaves HG at 9:30 am

Cost: \$93 per person, includes bus and Cog Railway Train; register at the Activities Desk or call 303-751-1811, ext 5.

See Clubhouse Events...page 46

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Clubs...from page 35

Senator Janet Buckner.

Our meetings are free. There is no requirement that you be registered as a Democrat or live in HG. Please join us after the meeting for dinner in Rendezvous, for fellowship and political conversation. – Marty Karnopp, chair.

Sevillians

Mark your calendar for 4:30–6 pm, May 23, 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, B235

NFBCO Aurora Chapter

The Aurora Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado meets once a month, 10:30 am–12:30 pm, in the Mountain View Room on the fourth Saturday.

Our chapter is open to all blind and low-vision persons interested in learning more about living the life you want with limited vision. For more

information, contact Dale Holden, chapter president, B213, 303-905-9738.

Frolics Club

The Frolics Club is just getting started — bringing exciting programs throughout the year to HG residents. Would you love to learn about acting?

Join us at 2–4 pm Sunday, May 28, Sandberg Auditorium, for a free “Intro to Acting,” presented by Morris Burns. Burns is a retired Professor of Theatre who taught at Colorado State University for 45 years, and directed more than 125 productions throughout his career.

Learn how an actor creates a character, how to use your voice and body in acting, how to analyze a role and how to memorize lines. Contact Susie Hayes, 303-745-1816, to reserve your seat.

There’s lots more events coming your way. Hope to see you all there on May 28 and events after.

“Bridgette Goes To Broadway,” the Frolics’ annual Spring show, is a wrap. We hope that everyone who attended this original production in April enjoyed the singing and dancing, along with the laughs. Everyone

who was involved with the show — the actors, stage crew, tech crew — thanks you for your support and kind words. – Barb Schneller

CP2

We will meet on the first Tuesday in April, June, August, October, and December. In June and December, we meet in the Rendezvous Restaurant, and in August — the Picnic Pavilion.

The rest of the months (April and October), we will meet in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms. The months that we are not meeting in Rendezvous Restaurant will be pot-luck and BYOB. Please mark your calendars! – Jake Flint

OPOCS Singles Club

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

HG Grief Support

Grief Support has two-hour weekly meetings that convene twice yearly, for eight-week sessions. Contact Barbara Creswell, 651-485-3608, bcreswell6@gmail.com, for information.

Clubhouse Events...from page 43

This is a HG chartered trip. We took this trip last year and tickets sold out fast!

Pikes Peak, known as America’s Mountain, is the star attraction, but the journey along the way is full of show-stopping moments. You will never forget this 3.5 hour round trip journey and your first glimpse of the Summit. Get your advance tickets now to secure your seat on a beautiful scenic trip. Pikes Peak Visitor’s Center offers snacks and water/beverages for sale, purchased items are allowed on cog railway. No outside food is allowed on the train.

We will stop at McDonalds for lunch, before going to the Cog Rail Station, lunch will be on your own or you may bring a lunch. Please remember to bring a jacket. It gets cold at 14,000 feet. If you wish to sit beside your friend/friends please tell the Clubhouse when registering. A charter bus will pick up residents at 9:30 am at the Atrium parking lot between B243 and B244 on East Marina Drive. No refunds or cancellations after Thursday, July 6.

Cirque du Soleil

Sunday, Aug. 6, Bus leaves at 11:15, Ball Arena
Fee: \$90, reservations required, call 303-751-1811 ext. 5
Deadline for tickets/cancellations: July 17

Originally composed of 20 street performers in 1984, Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group completely reinvented circus arts and went on to become a world leader in live entertainment. Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group creates content for a broad range of audacious projects. On top of producing world-renowned shows, Cirque du Soleil aims to make a positive impact on people, communities and the planet with its most important tools: creativity and art.

A charter bus will pick up residents between B243 and B244 on E Marina Drive, at 11:15 am and returning to HG around 5:15–5:30 pm.

Tentative Trips

HG Activities Desk has some tentative trips planned for the summer and fall. Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for trips to: Rocky Mountain Arsenal & Repository in June, Rocky Mountain National Park in July, Flying W Ranch Chuckwagon Dinner and performance in August, Cripple Creek Casino in September, and Senior Day with the Rockies Baseball team in September.

Sports ...from page 39

by actual golf rules will be a change.

After having attended several club events, and playing several rounds with her ambassador Gini Klein, Judy says she finds the group to be inviting, encouraging and non-judgmental. She most enjoys that everyone she has met demonstrates a love of the sport. – Suzi Stolte, Publicity Chair

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.

Fun Gals Golf

Enjoy Fun Gals Golf on Thursday mornings, with the first tee time starting at 9 am. 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.”

Fun Gals Golf is for ladies who are interested in some casual, non-competitive golf. It is not a league, and has no dues, no handicaps, no pressure, and no judgment.

For even more fun and socializing, we will hold Game Days on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Participation is optional.

Everyone golfing on Game Days (participating or not) will need to meet at the Pro Shop by 8:45 am, to get organized for that day’s play and learn about the day’s game/challenge. Those who choose to participate will pay \$1 to take part, getting a chance to win cash and/or prizes.

These games will not require keeping full-round individual scores. We go to Rendezvous, after playing, to distribute our winnings and socialize, maybe enjoying a drink or a bite of lunch.

For more information, please contact Linda Hileman, 303-514-5379.

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.

Muu-Muu Hula Club

Muu-Muu Hula Club meets Fridays, 1:30 pm, Arts & Crafts Room. All are welcome, dress is casual, and there is no cost for our classes. Questions? Call Cindy Crockett, 303-690-7702.

Mexican Train Dominoes

We play 1–4 pm, every Saturday, Arts & Crafts Room. It’s a game for everyone. – Bernadette (Bee) Hass, 303-923-3877.

Evening Tuesday Bridge

This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 5:30 pm, Blue Spruce Room. Questions? Contact DJ Vrooman, 303-204-4105.

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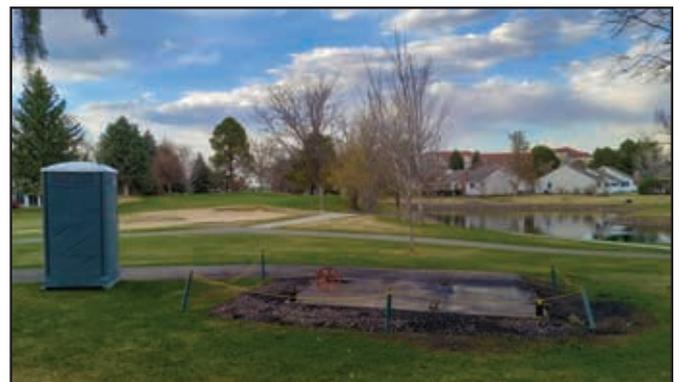
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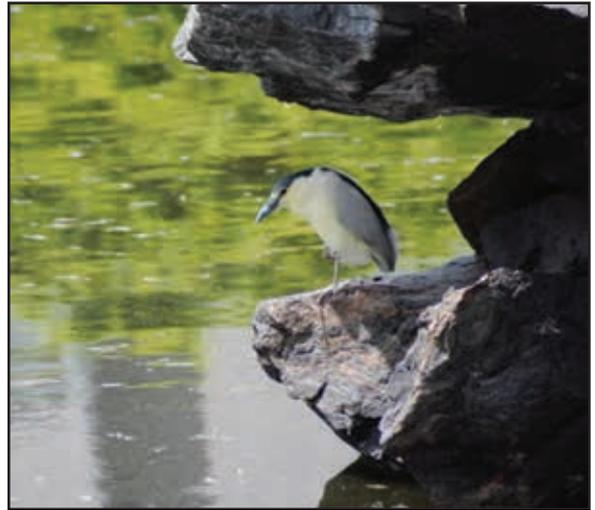


Above: Replacing the wood gazebo that contained a porta-potty that burned in a night fire on Jan. 10, 2023, is a portable porta-potty between the #2 green and the #3 tee on the HG Golf Course. No announcement yet when a more permanent structure will be built to replace the missing rain shelter gazebo. Photo by Janis Farrell.



Flower photo by Anne Hummel-Gillis

Sometimes, HG Photographers determine the best photo story for this magazine by submitting what has interested them recently. As these photos show, it is the water fowl that frequent HG and nearby lakes or rivers. What a wonderful sight! Thank you for sharing.



Photos by Lee Keene, B223 (top right), Christine Zipps, B223 (three photos of mallards and two of a heron; Joan Obeslo, B210 (heron in flight, left); Anne Hummel Gillis, BP1 (blue heron, right)





Right: Beautiful **American Wigeon** (males) are fairly common in HG during migration season. In the last couple of years, our most numerous duck...even more than mallards!



American Wigeon - Males



Drake Mallard

low sun angle makes Green Head look Blue



Buffle Head-male



Golden Eye Ducks



Hooded Merganser

Top photo: Anita Huddleston, B223 (geese and goslings on HG lawn)
Below: Patt Clark, B235 (Duck nesting on rocks above Seville Pond. Nest is adjacent to a pottery frog — strange companions).



Drake Mallards (male), in blue water, normally have green heads, but low sun angle makes the feathers look blue! Several types of birds have plumage that turns color in different lighting.

The **Common Goldeneye** is a small but beautiful duck common around here during spring and fall migration. Often see them

here at HG migrating through but in small numbers.

Ring Necked Duck (in green water) is named for the brown ring at the base of its neck (barely visible usually).

Buffleheads are not too common at HG but are very common on the South Platte River west of Santa Fe Drive in Littleton during winter and migration season. (White duck with green face and red neck)

Hooded Merganser is one of my favorite ducks. The male can lay his hood back to almost a straight white line, but can also raise it up when excited. Here it is about 2/3 raised. Not found in HG but are regular visitors on the South Platte River. Photos and narratives by Rudy Morris, B217



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Estate Sale. Fri.-Sun., May 5, 6 and 7. For directions and to make your appointment, call Cindy, 303-587-7702.

Barely Used Motorized Chair. Pink color. Originally \$1,800; best offer over \$900. Disassembles for transport. Second battery. 720-693-8020.

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FYI...from page 30

Attention Master Masons

An appendant High Twelve Club will have an open meeting at 11 am Wednesday, May 24, in Rendezvous Restaurant. It is a casual informative luncheon. Guests are invited. Guest speaker. Call Walter Martin, 303-841-5234, for information.



Aurora History Museum

The Aurora History Museum is pleased to announce the new exhibit "A History of Lowry Air Force Base," which chronicles the story of Lowry Air Force Base, the people who served there and the importance of the base to Aurora and the surrounding areas. The exhibit will be on display March 14 to July 9 at the museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway.

"A History of Lowry Air Force Base" features photographs, documents and a comprehensive chronology of the base. Visitors will learn about the many individuals who contributed to the development of Lowry, from its founding before World War 2 to its closure in 1994. Discover the unique stories of the people and technology that shaped its storied history.

The museum is open from 9 am to 4 pm Tuesday through Friday and from 11 am to 4 pm Saturday and Sunday. Admission is always free. For more information, call 303.739.6660 or visit AuroraMuseum.org.

Furry Scurry

The Denver Dumb Friends League (ddfl) celebrates the 30th anniversary of its Furry Scurry on 9 am–noon Saturday, May 6. Walk or run in person, in Washington Park;

or participate virtually, as a "Friend From Afar," anywhere in the country.

Support local vendors, at the Flealess Market. Enjoy activities as dog-agility demos and contests at the Furry Scurry Festival. The event benefits vulnerable animals across Colorado. Register at FurryScurry.org. Email questions to FurryScurry@ddfl.org.

Aurora Townhall Meeting

Councilwoman Alison Coombs, who represents HG in Ward V, will be at HG for her Townhall Meeting, 6–7:30 pm Tuesday, May 16, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room.

If you miss that one, she has scheduled a Townhall Meeting at 10:30 am–noon Saturday, May 20, Mission Viejo Library, 15324 E. Hampden Circle. Visit AuroraGov.org/TownMeetings to confirm

meeting dates and location or to find links for joining virtual meetings.

Aurora Potters' Guild

Spring Sale

Friday May 12, 10 am–6 pm

Saturday May 13, 9 am–4 pm



Rotunda at Community College of Aurora, 16000 East Centre Tech Parkway Aurora 80012

Potters' Guild members invite you to their Spring Sale. The Guild is comprised of local clay artists, some of whom have private studios while others work at recreation facilities, such as Bicentennial and The Trails. You'll find unique hand-made pottery, sculptures, garden art, ornaments, jewelry and gifts with prices starting at \$5. Free admission; Free parking



Above: Ted Fulton examines a jewelry piece.

Antiques appraisal on April 22 at HG still draws residents wondering whether they have that forgotten, valuable item.



Right: Martin Kay examines a porcelain figurine.



CP3 women (16) gathered for friendship at Diana Schwinghammer's home for an Easter Brunch, Saturday, April 15. Time for great food, with terrific friends. Photo by Diana Schwinghammer.

Free Days for May

Denver Art Museum Tuesday, May 9
720-865-5000, 10 am–9 pm Sunday, May 14
www.denverartmuseum.org, 100 W 14th Ave Pkwy

Longmont Museum Saturday, May 13
303-651-8374, 9 am–5 pm
www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-e-m/museum, 400 Quail Rd 80501

Clyfford Still Museum Wednesday, May 31
720-354-4880, 10 am–5 pm *Día del Niño Celebration*
www.clyffordstillmuseum.org 10:30 am–12:30 pm
1250 Bannock St, Denver

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Overheard @ HG

The lowdown on downward dog and other distractions

by Mary Hafka

Something unexpected happened around the first of this year, when I wasn't paying attention. I woke up and discovered I had become the Area Representative (AR) for CP6.

It was sort of a surprise — certainly I never saw it coming — but it shouldn't have been. It made me harken back to the period when I first moved to HG.

I was happily unemployed at the time, due to having been laid off from a job with a cable company. I'd never been laid off before, and thought the experience offered endless possibilities. Luxuriating during the summer in a place where recreational options abounded felt like a gem of an opportunity.

I embraced the vast array of HG amenities, spending summer afternoons by the outdoor pool. I played golf a few times a week. I buddied up with another would-be workout enthusiast, and we walked the 2.5 miles around HG most every evening.

I was having a pretty swell time doing not much of anything. Then a member of the HGA Nominating Committee sidled up to me, poolside, like the serpent from the garden. She whispered in my ear that I should run for the homeowner's association board of directors.

I'm happy to report I had a narrow escape on that occasion. I didn't get elected — but it was a harbinger of things to come.

While seeking other pleasant activities to fill my idle days, I opted to join the later-defunct HG mixed chorus. I'd sung in choirs in school and church, and always liked it. That sounded like an activity I would enjoy. But, between numbers, one day, I got chatted up by a fellow singer, who asked about my work background.

I mentioned I'd been a corporate writer, producing newsletters, annual reports, brochures, and the like. Her eyes lit up like a Christmas tree.

"My daughter needs you!" she pronounced. Turns out the fellow

singer was Helen Donaldson, who had been publisher of *Heather 'n Yon*, and had passed that job onto her daughter, Lynn.

I barely had time to digest the fact that I now was employed by *Heather 'n Yon*, when the mixed-chorus connection dealt me another blow. Our choir director got the nod, that year, to direct the annual springtime Frolics Show. She promptly steered her choir into being the show's vocal chorus. While I have no recollection of consciously joining the Frolics Club — I wound up on stage.

Robert Frost wrote, "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in." I began to get the impression that this "taking you in" stuff was the local pastime at HG, with less altruistic motives.

April 16–22, this year, was National Volunteer Week. It's good to honor volunteers for their time, generously given. But my opinion had already grown to be: every week is National Volunteer Week at HG.

A lot of residents probably were older than I, when they first moved to HG. Figuratively speaking, they proved more fleet of foot. They came here to retire, and, naturally, reacted to someone trying to put them to work again — as a club member, board volunteer or committee member — with a degree of negativity.

Someone such as I, who was deliciously idle, but kind of too young to retire, must have looked like a more promising prospect. Anyway, in those days, I didn't know enough to run.

As a result of such poor footwork, I eventually spent five years serving on the HGMD Board of Directors, in the early 2000s. Completing my board service, I volunteered less and took paying jobs more often.

During the board years, though, I think I served on every committee HG offered, except for Roads & Grounds. Why I missed out on Roads & Grounds, I'm not sure. For once,

I must have remembered to duck when that particular float sailed by, tossing out candy.

The one job around HG that always eluded me, though, was AR. One time, I was an Alternate AR, in CP1, because the reigning AR came and got me. He was a buddy, with whom I'd served on the Publications/Communications Committee, as well as a neighbor. He made a perfectly reasonable proposal — he would perform all the jobs connected with being a Country Place AR, except attend the ARO quarterly meetings.

He hated meetings, he said. We agreed that, if I would attend the quarterly meetings, he'd never ask me to do anything else. He was as good as his word, so I dutifully trouped off to the tri-monthly ARO meetings. I didn't mind much, because I often gained information that augmented my work on *Heather 'n Yon*.

As a consequence, though, I learned little about what the AR in a Country Place neighborhood actually did. These days, I'm getting a crash course.

Fortunately, the six ARs of the six CPs have formed a confederation to help one another bash and crash through this process. Only one or two of the six have experience, and after meeting with us clueless newbies, I expect the worm to turn. I predict the experienced ones are going to find themselves much too busy in the future to participate in our little group. They'll want to spend more time with their grandchildren, or something.

And as I was putting the finishing touches on this column, a friend zipped by my house, and told me of an activity she read about in the newspaper, called Yoga With Baby Goats. Apparently a handler brings kids into the yoga class that scale your back while you bend into awkward positions.

She wanted to try it, and figured I was the one person she knew who might join her in the activity. I have to admit, it does sort of sound like me.

I guess it's official. I apparently have one of those faces that says, this woman will go along with anything.

I wonder what kind of exercise wear is called for, when downward-dogging with baby goats? With deep foreboding, I have the sense I'm about to find out.

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