



# Heather 'n Yon<sup>®</sup>

December, 2016 Vol. 30, No. 10

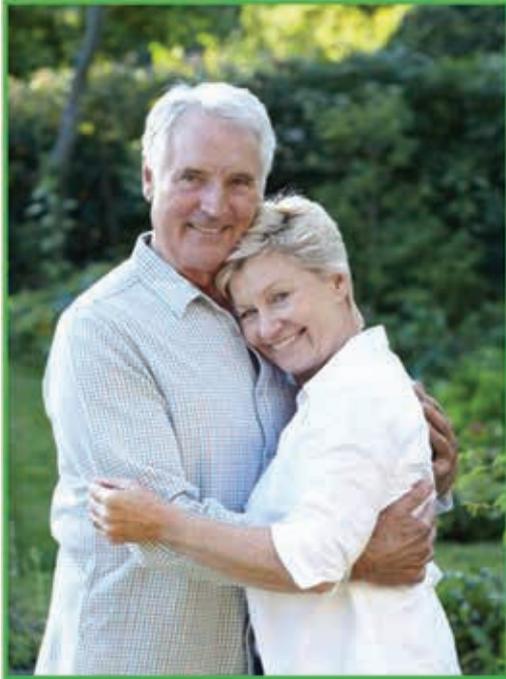
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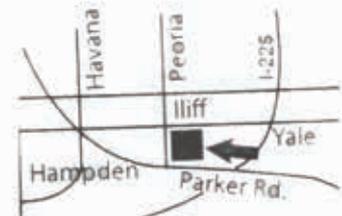


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Pedal the Plains...see page 17



Picnics...see page 19



Craft Fair...see page 25

# contents

2017 HGMD Budget passes; final approval in Dec.  
**5 Refunding Bonds Part 2**  
 New underwriter, RBC Capital Markets selected

Emergency Preparedness Committee advises  
**8 Seasonal Safety Advice**  
 Travel, home heating and electrical, holidays

Total budget = \$10,363,178  
**9 HGA Approves 2017 Budget**  
 New board officers selected by 2017 board

New neighborhood parking permits  
**11 Aurora Parking Programs**  
 Transit parking will be enforced; citations issued

- 31 **LETTERS**
- 34 **CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS**
- 38 **SPORTS/RECREATION**
- 41 **HGMD FOUNDATION**
- 42 **TRIPS AND TOURS**
- 46 **CLUBHOUSE EVENTS**
- 50 **CLASSIFIEDS**



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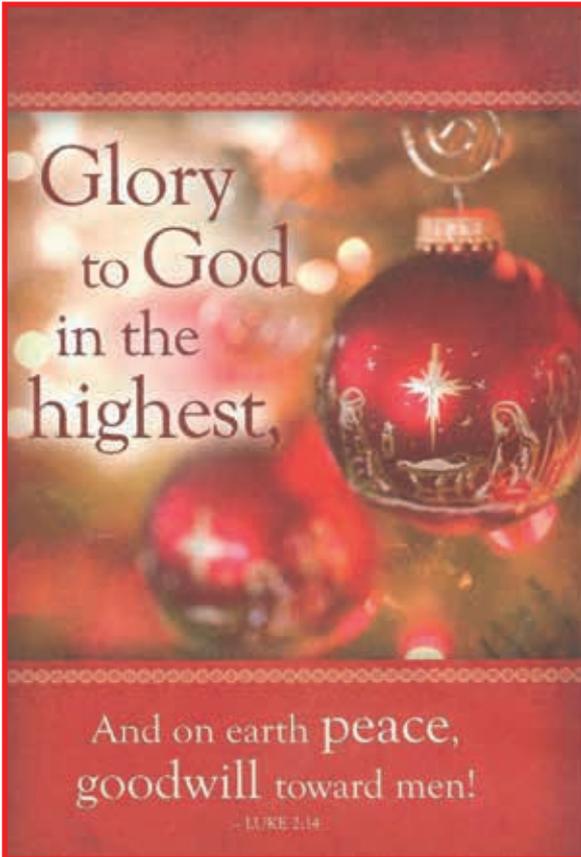
## TO HG RESIDENTS:

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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## Heather Gardens Chapel

*The congregation of Heather Gardens Chapel want to wish you a very blessed Christmas!*

*Sunday Chapel 11 am*

*Sandberg Auditorium*

*Dec 18th Chapel Choir Presentation*

*"Do You Hear What I Hear?"*

*Dec 24th Christmas Eve Service*

*4:00 – 5:00 pm*

*Pastor Bill Cheyne*

## Listing of Advertisers

### Attorneys-

Karnopp,Radosevich,Preston 36  
Kirch and Rounds .....29

### Auto Service-

Big O Tires .....49  
Harley's Autotech .....13  
Johnson Automotive .....45  
Ken's Auto Service.....33  
Les Schwab Tires .....42  
Tapp's Garage .....21

### Dentist-

Aspenwood .....2  
Axiom Dental .....12  
D'Amico and Mauck.....28  
Dr. Nelson Joo .....13

### Estate Sales-

Metro Estate Brokers .....48

### Financial Services-

American Family Ins .....45  
Approval Reverse Mortgage...39  
Complete Funding Financial...23  
Edward Jones .....48  
Fairway Independent Mortg ....36  
G&W Wealth Management.....13  
New York Life Ins Co .....6

Sandy Clements .....49  
Scott Bagwin Insurance.....21  
State Farm Ins -Smith.....13

### Funeral Services-

Fairmount Mortuary, Cemetery47

### Health Services-

Answers for Senior Care .....48  
Bayer Ear Clinic Inc. ....16  
Life Care Center .....36  
Natural Healing .....41  
Senior Path .....33

### Home Furnishings-

Bentley Wellness .....22  
Smart Spaces .....7

### Home Improvements-

Applewood Plumbing .....18  
Dun-Rite Kitchens.....45  
Egress Inc. ....27  
Expressions in Flooring .....10  
Grande Vista Windows .....55  
Kitchen Tune Up .....39  
Renaissance Dome .....45  
Yakima Construction.....42

### Homecare-

Fusion Home Care.....48

### Miscellaneous-

Chambers Wine and Liquors ..49  
Gate City Moving .....48  
Heather Gardens Chapel.....4

### Realtors-

Colorado Real Est -R.Lindahl .20  
Encore Brokers -Elle Pope .....26  
Home Smart -M.Bombardiere.48  
Keller Williams -Cathy Ford ....40  
Re/Max Masters -Fred Smith .37  
Re/Max Unlimited -HG Team ..56  
Sharon Young .....32  
Your Castle -C.Guzman.....36

### Retirement-

Cherry Creek, Garden Plaza ....7  
Harvard Square .....44  
Morningstar at Dayton Place .43  
Morningstar at Jordan .....43  
St. Andrews Village at HG ....18

### Travel-

4 Hemispheres Travel.....21  
Prime Time Tours.....49

# Refunding bonds discussed, budget moves forward

A special meeting of the HGMD Board of Directors met on Nov. 8, to hear presentations from four bond companies. The four presenters — representatives from Piper Jaffrey, George K. Baum & Co., Stiffel Nicolaus & Co., and RBC Capital Markets — each devoted half an hour to explain to the board how their company could best serve as underwriter for refunding HG's general-obligation bonds, issued in 2010, to build the current Clubhouse.

The earliest call date for HG's bonds is the year 2020. Entities are allowed to refund their bonds only one time before the call date.

The board voted to work with RBC, to explore whether refunding its general-obligation bonds now could save HG homeowners enough money to make the effort worthwhile, and whether now is the best time to use HG's one shot at refunding before the call date.

Estimates for savings over the life of the bonds ranged from \$750,000 to \$1 million at current rates; however, interest rates might change before HG can get the new bonds issued. The board named a 5.5 percent reduction as the minimum target to take action now.

• • •

All directors attended the regular meeting of the HGMD Board of Directors, on Nov. 17. Two representatives from USI also attended, and made a presentation to the board with options for HGMD's 2017 insurance package, offered through the Colorado Special District's pool.

The board approved USI's Option 1 plan, with a \$1,000 deductible, a plan offered to HGMD by accident. USI explained that HGMD never should have been offered a deductible as low as \$1,000; however, the company decided to honor the error they made, and HG benefited.

## Insurance

HGMD will incur a premium increase to \$44,670, USI said. The increase was triggered by hail-damage claims.

The board made a few tweaks to their 2017 budget proposal. The board added \$6,000 to the budget for restaurant staff salaries, an increase required by the approval of Amendment 70 in the most recent General Election to raise Colorado's minimum wage.

Clubhouse Trips revenue and expense was added, as this entity transferred from HGA's budget into HGMD's. The board removed funds to pay a golf-course marshal from their budget (approximately \$10,000), pending further discussion.

After accepting the budget revisions, Treasurer Twyla Gaugenmaier announced that the public meeting for residents to comment or question the current outlines of the budget will be in December, at a date to be determined. If no major issues are raised at that meeting, the board will make its final approval of the 2017 budget.

HGMD approved amending Golf Course Bylaws, to put the makeup of the Golf Committee more in line with HGMD's other committees. Granting the president of the Ladies Golf Club, the Men's Golf Club and HG's golf professional automatic membership on the committee was discontinued. In the future, beginning in 2017, resident golfers may apply for membership on the committee

## Golf Committee membership

in the same manner as other members on HGMD or HGA committees do.

The board approved replacing the batteries in HG's fleet of electric golf cars (\$18,216). The battery life is approximately five years, Golf Committee Chair Vince Velasquez said.

The board tabled two motions from Clubhouse/Restaurant Committee Chair Craig Baldwin. A proposal to install an ATM machine in the Clubhouse vestibule was returned for additional study.

Questions included what kind of damage bolting the machine to the floor might produce, how much activity is expected at the ATM, and what is the name and bank affiliation of the proposed vendor?

## ATM

See HGMD...page 10



*Left: First snow in the front range was Nov. 17. It was not record-breaking. (The latest snow for the area is Nov. 21.) What was remarkable — it came the day after a record-breaking warm day, 80 degrees F. The previous high temperature for the day was 77 degrees in 1941 (That's right, just before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7.) Photo by Rudy Morris, B217.*

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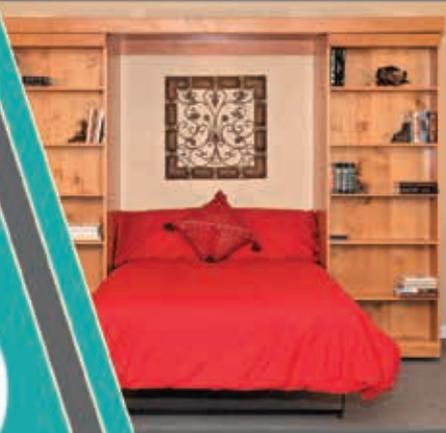
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# Extra! Extra! Information for you—

## Emergency Preparedness Committee News

On the day I wrote this article, there was not a sign of moisture, cold, or snow for Colorado. But, as residents of Colorful Colorado, I know that weather conditions can change in a heartbeat.



So, let's address Winter Car Readiness.

The Colorado Department of Transportation ([www.codot.info](http://www.codot.info)) provides the following information.

### Automotive Checklist

Before you leave on a road trip, make sure all of the following are in safe operating condition:

- Windshield Wiper Fluid
- Heater/Defroster
- Wiper Blades
- Antifreeze
- Lights
- Fuel System and a Full Tank of Gas
- Ignition
- Exhaust System
- Tire Tread
- Battery/Brakes

### Safety Checklist

Make sure you have the following items in your vehicle in case of an emergency:

- Flares/reflectors to signal for help and warn other motorists
- Sturdy scraper/snow brush/snow shovel to clear snow
- Battery or crank-powered radio to listen to emergency broadcasts

- Flashlight with extra batteries or crank-powered flashlight
- Survival blanket or sleeping bag
- Chemical hand warmers
- Extra set of clothes, including coat, hat, mittens, boots, etc.
- Gallon jug of water and nonperishable food
- First Aid Kit and essential medications
- Tire chains and tow strap
- Non-clumping kitty litter/sand for traction
- Jumper cables
- Extra cloth or paper towels for cleanup if necessary
- Deck of cards or board game for entertainment

Holiday Season is upon us! Please make note of the following reminders from The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) ([www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)) to protect your family and home from holiday season fires. The ESFI is the premier non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety at home and in the workplace.

**Seasonal Fire Safety:** There's no place like home for the holidays and no better place to implement good fire safety practices.

**Smoke Alarm Safety Tips:** Smoke alarms save lives. Ensure that your home is adequately protected by working, properly installed smoke alarms

**Space Heater Safety:** As the temperature drops during the winter holiday season, many families turn to a space heater to help warm their

homes. Many are unaware, however, that the risk of fire from space heaters is much greater than from central heating equipment.

**Holiday Cooking Safety:** The kitchen is the heart of the home. It's where families gather to cook favorite recipes, share warm meals, and reconnect with each other, especially during the holidays. Unfortunately, it's also where two of every five reported home fires start.

**Holiday Decorating Safety:** While decorative lights and other electrical decorations add to the splendor of the season, they can increase the risks of fire and electrical injuries if not used safely.

**Extension Cord Safety:** While extension cords are a convenient way to supply power right where you need it for your holiday decorations, they can also create hazards if not used safely.

**Counterfeit Electrical Products:** Unlike fake handbags, watches, or designer apparel, counterfeit electrical products pose significant safety hazards. Look for products that have been approved by a nationally recognized testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL). The certification mark should be on both the packaging and the product.

Please visit the product's noted websites for additional information.

— Donna Szewczynski  
Emergency Preparedness  
Committee, B235

## Security joins Toy Drive by local police

HG Security is joining Cops Fighting Cancer in its 14th Annual Long Blue Line Toy Drive.

Please donate new, non-gift wrapped toys, books, games, gift cards to HG Security, HG Clubhouse, before Thursday, Dec. 8. On that

day, 250 officers will visit every child at Children's Hospital and give them one of the gifts lovingly donated by you.

Thank your for your generosity! Visit website, [www.copsfightingcancer.org](http://www.copsfightingcancer.org). Questions? 720-938-3810.

Note: Any remaining toys (after the event) will be contributed to families in need or community organizations assisting those in need.

Chief Larry Baker  
HG Security  
303-750-9477

# 2017 budget approved, new board officers selected

All nine directors attended the Nov. 15 meeting of the HGA Board of Directors. By meeting's end, eight remained, as Director Jay Bluestein left the meeting, in frustration, after a motion he made was tabled without sufficient guidance about what his committee, Long Range Planning Committee, should do before reintroducing the motion.

The board approved the 2017 budget for HG, pending the HGMD's acceptance of its portion of the budget. Some highlights:

Operating Budget	\$8,531,086
Capital Budget	\$1,832,092
Total:	\$10,363,178

The budget represents a one-half of 1 percent increase in dues. The costs of utility-related budget items decreased. Everything else, which would be maintenance related, increased by 1.5 percent.

HOA fees would increase an average of \$2 per household; however, if the anticipated decrease in the recreational fee, from the HGMD budget, of \$4 occurs, this \$2 increase would be offset with a net effect that each household would see a monthly decrease of \$2.

Treasurer Susan Lambert reported that HGA expects to end 2016 with a funds surplus. The surplus will be applied to reducing the 2018 budget, she said.

At the end of the meeting, the HGA Board convened a special meeting of the 2017 board of directors, to elect new officers for the coming year. Departing Directors Winnie Jennings and Linda Serio left the meeting table, while incoming directors Rex Engel and Bill Reynolds joined six incumbents. (Director Bluestein was absent.)

Officers elected were:

President Kay Sawyer  
Vice President Dave Archer  
Treasurer Susan Lambert  
Secretary Michael Lickteig

In the 2016 board, Kay Sawyer was secretary and Dave Archer was

vice president. Lambert was named treasurer when she was appointed to the 2016 board after Treasurer Bruce Jones' death.

A motion to establish a special or ad hoc committee, to study the role of HG's Security Department on neighborhood security, provoked a lively discussion. Lambert moved that a committee be formed, consisting of the general manager, HGA's attorney, representatives from law enforcement, local first responders, and an independent security professional. She added that such a committee had been recommended by the Budget & Finance Committee during its October budget-review session. The purpose was to more concretely define what HG's responsibility would be for security as changes in the surrounding area impact the community.

Director Deb Stelle questioned the need to establish a new Security Committee, when an earlier subcommittee, under the Civic Affairs Committee (of which she is chair) was abolished. She suggested a board member should replace the general manager on any such committee

Calvin Eddy-White responded that he needed to be on the committee, as he is the person who serves as liaison between providers of professional services and HG. A new committee on security issues would be ad hoc, he said, dissolving after serving its purpose of identifying "what our Security Department is supposed to do."

Lambert added, "I see [the committee] as a short-term committee of experts who know the law, and know what we can and can't do as a security department."

Board directors approved adding Lickteig, chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee, as the board representative to the committee. The

motion to form the new committee passed.

Conflict among board directors surfaced when the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) Chair Jay Bluestein moved to award a contract to the Farnsworth Group, to conduct a building-lifecycle analysis of HG's buildings and infrastructure (\$80,000). Since the formation of the LRPC, Bluestein and his committee have worked on a 30-year plan to keep HG's aging structures viable.

Sawyer moved tabling the motion, saying more information was needed before deciding whether to commit \$80,000 to such a study. Director Deb Stelle seconded the motion to table.

Sawyer's motion listed areas in which additional information was needed, including being provided with the qualifications of Farnsworth, of the inspection team, and a copy of Farnsworth's report. Bluestein expressed bewilderment at the request to table, saying the information Sawyer requested had been presented at a work session, which Sawyer attended.

Sawyer replied, "I was at the work session, and I was impressed by it. But I don't think there was enough information."

Lambert noted, "I think what Kay is suggesting is a little more time in a work session to review all the ramifications...before we open Pandora's box, and expose ourselves to millions of dollars worth of costs. There's no reason we can't have another work session, to get all directors on the same page."

Structure Maintenance Committee Chair Kathy Buhrman added, "I think the concern is what kind of liability do we [incur] if we find something, and we don't do anything."

After Bluestein exited the meeting, three additional agenda items got dropped. Bluestein wanted to propose three actions to improve

See HGA...page 10

# HGMD ...from page 5

The board also deferred proceeding on a Code of Conduct for users of the Clubhouse and restaurant. Several directors — as well as residents, speaking from the audience — questioned the appropriateness of employees dictating a code of conduct for residents.

## Code of conduct

Director Ed Kurtz remarked, "We shouldn't penalize residents for using what they pay for...this needs more work."

Velasquez made a motion, then withdrew it, to add required meeting in HGMD's policy manual. This special meeting would be held in September — in advance of the budget review — with HGA to review and discuss budgets and proposed employee salaries. The board subsequently tabled approving its policy manual, because the product is not yet finished.

## Policy manual

HGMD Board agreed to a recommendation from the Foundation Committee to approve using Foundation funds for HG's holiday lighting display, not to exceed \$3,500. Foundation Committee Chair Kurtz said about half the money would purchase "new stuff," while the second half would be to "refurbish existing stuff."

The board narrowly approved asking its agent (HGA) to provide wage benchmarks for positions related to HGMD cost centers, and to be notified when the benchmarks are

## Wage variances

exceeded by 10 percent or more. Dissenting directors, Baldwin and Gaugenmaier, voted no on an amendment to the motion that added the 10 percent notification requirement. Treasurer Gaugenmaier voted no on the main motion.

# HGA ...from page 9

communications in HG when there are emergencies. Sawyer originally had proposed tabling all four motions by Bluestein, but later agreed the motions should be addressed individually.

An earlier motion made by Bluestein, changes to the LRPC's Procedure Memorandum (PM), also had been tabled, until directors could receive a "legible copy" of the proposed changes.

After the regular meeting, the board adjourned into executive session. The topic for the session was not announced.

The board also approved:

...three projects, for homeowners to privately install skylights/solar tubes in their homes.

...ratified replacing two water heaters for B235. The work was performed by Total Plumbing, on an emergency basis (\$30,166, \$5,298 over budget).

...a change to the PM for the Campus Technology Committee, stating that the chair of the subcommittee did not need to be the chair of the Structure Maintenance Committee.

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## HGA Board President Reports

By Winnie Jennings

Well, it is time for me to say "Farewell" to the HGA Board. My two terms are over and that is all a director is allowed. I have lived here 11.5 years, and have been involved since day one. I started on the Budget & Finance Committee. I also belonged to many different committees and clubs. I have enjoyed living here. I am looking forward to many more years (???)

Thank you for all your help and assistance.

...

Jennings celebrated her 93rd birthday at Rendezvous Restaurant with friends on Nov. 11. Her large cake, with only one candle (to avoid setting off the fire alarms?), was shared with many other diners.

# New parking programs in Aurora

You may notice some new street signs rolling out across the city that affect where and when you park. With the addition of new light-rail stations, the construction of new parking structures and an increase in the number of people parking along streets in high-traffic neighborhoods, the city of Aurora is debuting a new parking management program called Park Aurora. Here's some of what you can expect:

• **Neighborhood Parking Permits:** Several neighborhoods have been added to the city's permit-only parking program, especially some busy areas near light-rail stations. Residents in permit-parking neighborhoods can apply for free permits for their vehicles. Look to on-street signage for details.

• **Transit Parking and Mobility:** The Iloff Station garage (opening with the launch of the R Line light rail), the Hyatt Regency and more will ease access to light rail and other hot spots. Commuters will have access to monthly passes and convenient payment programs like pay-by-mobile.

• **Parking Enforcement:** New parking enforcement officers will maintain access to parking facilities and create safe traveling and parking conditions by enforcing the city's parking regulations.

• **Aurora Parking Bureau:** An easy, transparent and common-sense approach to handling citations, the Parking Bureau allows for the resolution of disputes without having to go to Municipal Court.

Many of the changes begin in early December, so watch for street signage or go to [parkaurora.com](http://parkaurora.com) to be aware of changes in your neighborhood. Want to avoid parking citations? Follow these simple steps to make sure you're complying with new rules and regulations:

1. Ensure you have unexpired license plates on the front and back of your vehicle.
2. Don't park too close to driveways (5 feet), fire hydrants (15 feet) or cross walks, stop signs and traffic signals (30 feet).
3. Don't leave your

vehicle parked too long in one space on the street: three days if the vehicle does not work or has expired license plates, five days if it is a motorhome or RV, seven days if it works properly, or longer if it's parked directly in front of your residence.

4. If it's time to move your vehicle, make sure you move it at least 100 feet.

5. Always look at signs to determine if permits are needed or payment is required.

For more information, go to [parkaurora.com](http://parkaurora.com) or contact [parking@auroragov.org](mailto:parking@auroragov.org) or 303-739-7338.

## IN MEMORIAM

Hilde Eckhardt (former 217)  
John Heil (former 215)  
James Keefe (former 216)  
Gilda Ledder (former 216)  
Lorraine Wilcox (222)



Photographer Rudy Morris, B217, caught HG at one of its most colorful moments in 2015.



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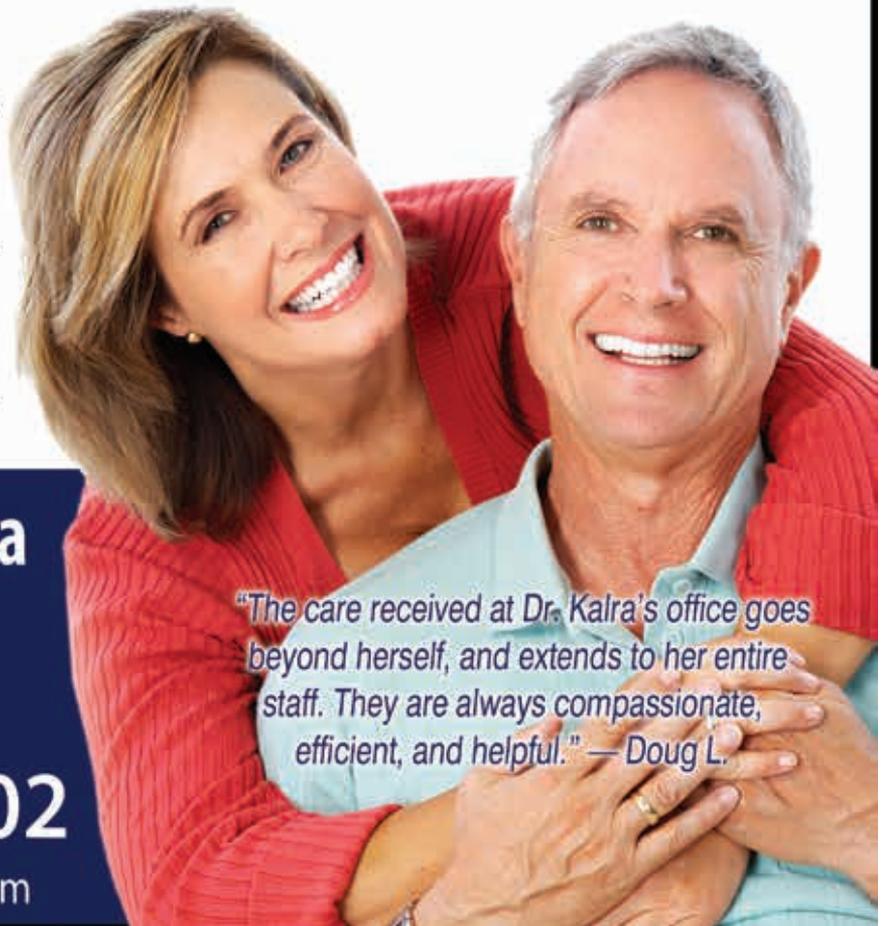
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## Publisher's Corner

### I guarantee: this story about playing will make you smile

by Lynn Donaldson, Editor of Heather 'n Yon

Now and again, I find stories that are just to much fun. This month it is the National Museum of Play (also known as The Strong), located in Rochester, New York. Did you know there was such a place? I didn't. So, just in time for Christmas...

My interest was triggered by a story about the toys that were inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame this year (2016): Dungeons & Dragons, Fisher-Price Little People, and Swing (see photo below).

*Dungeons & Dragons* was an early entry in the role-playing games that have become the mainstays of video/electronic games today. *Dungeons & Dragons* was a table-top game introduced in 1974. It was popular among teenagers and college students. Play started with participants defining their character, features and skills. In a medieval setting, all characters (players) faced fantasy adventures with several levels. Outcomes of complex or risky actions were determined by throwing a dice. A player could increase or lose skills, wealth and character classes.

Suffice to say, play could take as long as some Monopoly games to determine a winner. I missed the enthusiasm for this game because I was embarking on my career by the time it appeared. It did get about three million enthusiasts by the 1980s.

*Little People* started in 1950 with the "Looky Fire Truck" and three round-headed fire men (attached permanently to the toy). The toy playsets have evolved from there to include a school bus, farm, and even a nativity scene. Sets are designed for children 6–36 months old; then some more complex ones were for ages 3 and older. You can still buy Little People today at any store that carries toys.

I don't think I need to describe much about *swings*. Whether you hung an old rubber tire from a tree limb or enjoyed a playground swing set, all of us have tried to swing higher and higher. Some of you may have attempted to put a swing set together in the back yard for your children.

To date, 62 toys have been inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame. Recent honorees include puppets, Twister, and Super Soaker. Barbie is in the Hall of Fame, as is Baby Doll and G.I. Joe. Candyland, Monopoly, checkers, chess, dominoes and playing cards have been inducted. Bicycles, kites, jumping ropes, jacks and hula hoops are in. I can't name them all, but you can check the website to see if your favorite is included or needs to be nominated. ([www.museumof-play.org/about/toy-hall-fame](http://www.museumof-play.org/about/toy-hall-fame))

Besides the National Toy Hall of Fame, The Strong houses the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of historical materials related to play. It is home to the International Center for the History of Electronic Games, World Video Game Hall of Fame and *American Journal of Play*, among other related activities.

Its mission: "The Strong explores play and the ways in which it encourages learning, creativity, and discovery and illuminates cultural history." Thus, it is not surprising that it houses thousands of dolls, games, and toys of all types for visitors to interact with, or about which historians can do research.

The museum's history is described at its website [www.museumofplay.org](http://www.museumofplay.org): "Margaret Woodbury Strong, a prolific collector of everyday objects, especially dolls and toys, founded The Strong in 1968 under the name 'Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum of Fascination.' Before she died in 1969, she bequeathed her considerable estate to help support the museum, and 13 years later, it opened in a new 156,000-square-foot building on 13.5 acres in downtown Rochester." The National Toy Hall of Fame was added to the collections in 2002.



Above: Inductees into the National Toy Hall of Fame in 2016 include (from left): *Dungeons & Dragons*, Fisher-Price Little People (represented by a barn and farm silo with animals and a farmer on a tractor) and the ever popular swing. Right: A kinetic sculpture at the National Play Museum has a young girl manipulating Mr. Potato-head with crane while other children watch the activity.





## Management

### Focus on safety — in your home, outdoors

By Calvin Eddy-White  
General Manager

The first snowfall of the season has arrived and along with it — the dangers of cold, snow, and ice. Now is the time to remember safety both in and out of your home.

When walking outdoors in the winter months, be extremely cautious, especially on exterior stairs. Whenever you can: walk with someone, walk in well-lit areas, take your time, use handrails and watch your step. If at all possible, avoid going outside during winter storms. HG provides snow and ice removal on the property, but it is impossible to remove all the snow and ice immediately during or right after a snowstorm. Please be extra careful when going outside this winter.

There are also things that can be done inside your home to increase safety and make your home more enjoyable. Bathroom safety tends to be an area of concern for many seniors. Some things that you can do to reduce accidents are: install grab bars, apply non-slip strips to bathtubs, install a walk-in tub or use shower seats, paint with contrasting colors to help with visibility, and have

motion sensing lighting installed.

Kitchen safety is also important. There are many accidents waiting to happen when working around the kitchen, but with a few minor adjustments, you can enhance your safety. Keep fire extinguishers handy and use kitchen timers as a reminder that you have items cooking on the stove or in the oven. Keep areas clean of grease and debris. Store frequently used items in lower, easy-to-reach cabinets. Use only sturdy step stools with handles.

Throughout the rest of your home, there are a few things that you can do as well to ensure that you live in a safe and enjoyable environment. Reduce or eliminate potential trip hazards such as extension cords, clutter, and throw rugs. Replace bulbs regularly to maintain proper lighting. Use night lights to guide you when it is dark.

Lastly, your safety and well-being can be enhanced by being a good social member of the community. Notify neighbors or security when embarking on an extended trip. Never just open your door for anyone. Use your peephole. Ensure that main entrance doors are never left propped open. Don't stay isolated: make efforts to spend time with family, friends, and neighbors. If you can't get out in bad weather, then pick up the phone for a chat.

Remember to have your keys and emergency contact forms kept up to date and on file with the HG Security Department. In the event of an emergency, please remember to call 911.

HG is a wonderful community. Your quality of life can be maintained in the long winter months by being safe and social.

## GM's Report

### General Manager

- Attended board, committee, and ARO meetings.
- Reviewed payables and Capital Projects.
- Reviewed ACC Project Approval forms.
- Attended meeting with Travelers Insurance at B217.
- Attended annual budget meetings.

### Controller

- Held the annual budget meetings.
- Completed Cincinnati Insurance audit.
- Met with Pinnacol and USI on annual insurance risk-control interview.
- Held an employee pizza luncheon.
- Coordinated the online defensive driving course for all employees.

### Paint

- Completed 48 work orders.
- Completed spraying the final coat for the chair rail in B217.
- Began painting walls on the 5th floor of B217.

- Met with the AR of B217.
- Painted red curb and yellow striping on steps at the Clubhouse.
- Painted yellow striping on steps at B236.

### Maintenance

- Completed 1,161 work orders. Of those, 128 were billable.
- Completed plumbing inspections at B209, B221, B222, B234.
- Jetted kitchen drain lines from the garage up in B233.
- Continued work on hallway renovation project in B216.
- Finished working on lanai epoxy-sealing ACC projects for the year.
- Modified closet doors to accommodate new meter panel in B206.
- Replaced two bollard lights.
- Repaired two roof leaks at B216 and B218.
- Replaced air handler in B221 and B223.
- Repaired underground wiring for lights in CP4 and NTH.
- Replaced garage door at CP5.
- Rebuilt garage door head at B217.
- Waterproofed around parking deck at B220 and B233.

- Cleaned gutters in all CPs and Townhomes.
- Cleaned dryer vents in B221.
- Replaced stair railings at B243 and PS1.

### Clubhouse

- Held 7 Special Events.
- Attended committee meetings.
- Budget for 2017.
- Submitted RTD SeniorRide trips letter of concern.
- Follow up with sponsors for events.
- Assisted with Bob Roth meeting and City of Aurora Planning meeting.
- Assisted Walmart Pharmacy with Flu Shots.
- Worked with county for Voter Ballot box.
- Began planning for holiday events.
- Started Fall classes on Oct 1.

### Contracts

- Replaced eight windows.
- Working with contractor for Atrium skylight repairs.
- Monitoring CP1 and CP4 siding, chimney and roofing replacement.
- Worked with architect and contrac-

See GM Report...page 26



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# Pedaling the Plains with cycling team, Betting the Farm

Turning 66 is a milestone event, the age of retirement. If your investments pay off and your health is good, that 66th birthday is one to commemorate. I sought a challenge — a bucket-list adventure — a never-before personal achievement to punctuate my advancement to the golden years. I would ride my bicycle in Colorado's celebrated "Pedal the Plains" tour. I selected my team name: Betting the Farm.

First, riding in the tour would allow me to ride 66 miles in one day, a distance I had never ridden in my 11 years of cycling. Second, it would be a weekend of road riding in the safety of 1,000 other cyclists, complete with SAG (Support And Gear) vehicles ever near. Third, riders would be meeting the folks of Ordway, Fowler, La Junta, and Los Animas as we traveled through Colorado's agricultural land while devouring melons along the way.

I had a fine road bike. For the tour I needed to upgrade my free and easy sneakers to bike shoes that clamped to the pedals. When secured to the pedal in just the right position, the foot provides power on the upstroke, allowing the rider to go faster and longer with less effort. I needed this extra strength to keep up with the pack. My fear had been that being attached to the bicycle — "I will fall, accept that fact" — had kept me clamp-free previously.

On a wave of determination, I entered Treads Bicycles and emerged with Big Girl Cyclist shoes. Footwear of beauty — they were sleek, lightweight, trending, frightening. Over the next four weeks, determination battled fear for mortal conquest of my soul as I practiced the rigging. Tentatively, I set out with my trusted companion — a veteran of many mountain tours and frequent century (100 mile) rides — friend Dawn Barnes.

Bicycle touring events generate good will among participants, cyclists, support staff, and locals. Dawn and I looked forward to chatting with farmers at the educational stops as much as to an open ride of 154 miles and two nights tent-camping under sun-drenched September skies. We visited animal farms, produce farms, museums, and a correctional facility. We lunched, courtesy of

Future Farmers of America, on locally grown food. We slept in Sherpa-provided tents while listening to bands playing on the other side of the park.

I trusted my pedals until day two. Coming in to the first stop, my foot stuck. I powered each leg to release position. Nothing budged. I was heading for a fall, perhaps injuring myself and other riders who would crash into me.

I called for help. Dawn caught and balanced my bike until I wrenched free.

One of the attractions of tour-riding is the built-in safety features. In addition to cycling medics and emergency responders, bike mechanics are available at some of the stops. Mechanics at this stop cleared my apparatus of impacted mud and offered tips on pedal extraction. I practiced at their tent before resuming the 59-mile leg.

Forty miles later my feet warmed to a scorching point equal to that of shoreline sands on a sweltering day. Sitting on the roadside, I removed the shoes-that-wanted-to-kill-me to let the effects of a tarred road under a 90-degree sun cool my feet. From then on I had to stop and repeat every five miles.

At 71 miles, day three was long, hot, and mostly uphill. After a 20 mile ride east along the

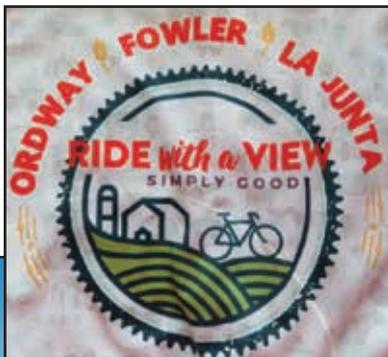
Arkansas River, the route doubled back up and out of the valley into a headwind for 50 miles. I pulled in front of a cyclist who began a pleasant chat as she stayed close behind. Aged 71, this veteran of "Ride the Rockies" (13 times) explained she's "slowed down some" and provided some tips. She explained the sys-

tem of drafting, then offered to take the lead. [When you draft like this, by tucking in close behind another rider, you expend less energy, to the tune of up to a 27 percent reduction in wind resistance.]

Here was a vestige of relief. Enclosed by the eddies of her aerodynamic vortex, I conserved energy as I covered the miles. We lost contact at the next aid station but the new knowledge emboldened me.

When two men passed me, asking "How are you doing?"

See *Pedal the Plains*...page 26



Top: *The Ride the Plains jersey artwork.*

Above: *Dawn Barnes and Dala Giffin at Sugar City, mile 66*

Right: *Stopping at a farm, with its animals along the way.*



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# Picnics offer freedom, respite from routines and a chance to share

They were a kind of ritual, or maybe just a habit, those Sunday picnics. It was wartime, so I suppose rationing had something to do with it. My family saved most of our gas coupons for Sunday drives to church, followed by trips across the San Francisco Bay to watch the waves

crash along the Pacific beach, or for leisurely travel through Golden Gate Park.

Most summer Sunday afternoons, a lunch was packed, and

my family of five climbed into the old black Packard, heading up into the brown Berkeley hills to a favorite picnic spot in Tilden Park.

The ground was bare and dry in the summer drought. The air heavy with vapors of the shaggy eucalyptus trees. When we met my aunt's family there, two cousins, my brother and I played catch or hiked around the park while the fathers talked about the war and labor unions. The mothers set out the picnic lunch.

I don't remember what we ate, probably some sandwiches and fruit. There must have been coffee in metal thermos jugs, with some kind of dessert — most likely cookies or a piece of cake.

Years later I took my own children back for a picnic there. I parked the youngest in a play pen while the older ones played catch and tag among the tall trees. I don't remember what we ate that day either. I think that maybe food is not the most important part of a picnic.

Early in my marriage, picnics were a way to stretch the dollars when traveling. Later, as cost became less of an incentive for packing a meal in a basket, my husband and I continued to do it for the adventure — in the Arizona desert or the flat, dry plains of Texas, deep in the golden autumn parks of North Carolina, along the shores of Lake Tahoe in Nevada, in the mountain heights of Yosemite, among the sand dunes of Libya and Tunisia, at the foot of castles in Spain, and in campgrounds throughout the European continent.



In Spain, we imitated the local residents, parking our van along the road, setting out a card table and folding chairs to eat a meal of crusty pan with cheese, olives and wine. And where better to have a picnic than on a blanket atop the hill overlooking Toledo, while enjoying El Greco's famous view of the city?

Sitting with friends around a picnic blanket on another hill in Spain, we were charmed by the sound of bells from a flock of sheep nearby. As the sounds and the sheep came closer, we realized we were in the shepherd's path. He was not about to change his route. We hurriedly gathered our picnic fare, climbed into the van, and watched the sheep gobble the crumbs left in their path.

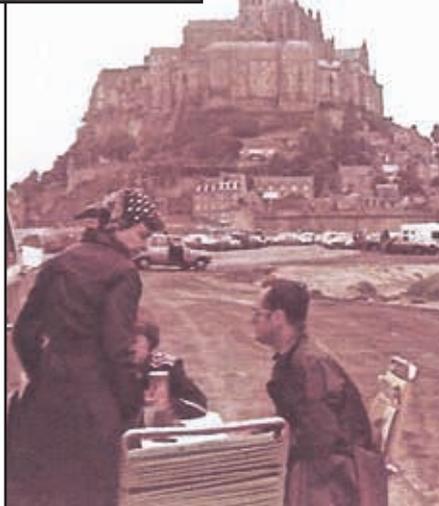
Libya had no picnic areas either, only wide expanses of sand that were empty of any apparent life. Not long after spreading out our picnic fare, small heads popped up behind the dunes. We ate with an audience of curious dark-skinned boys in striped cotton tunics.

Some of the most memorable picnics were those that happened under less than ideal conditions. An unexpected downpour threatened to cancel a picnic during a Friendship Force exchange in Rotorua, New Zealand. That was only a slight inconvenience to our hosts, who cooked

on charcoal stoves under brollies (umbrellas), set tables under a canopy, and served us a friendly welcome, not dampened by the weather.

The weather was more favorable during my trip to Poland with a group of church women. However, the political climate under Soviet rule was not. The itinerary was recorded in detail with the government, but our eccentric leader found ways to

stray from the schedule. We were not surprised, when at the end of one long day, the bus left the highway and



See *Picnics...* page 27

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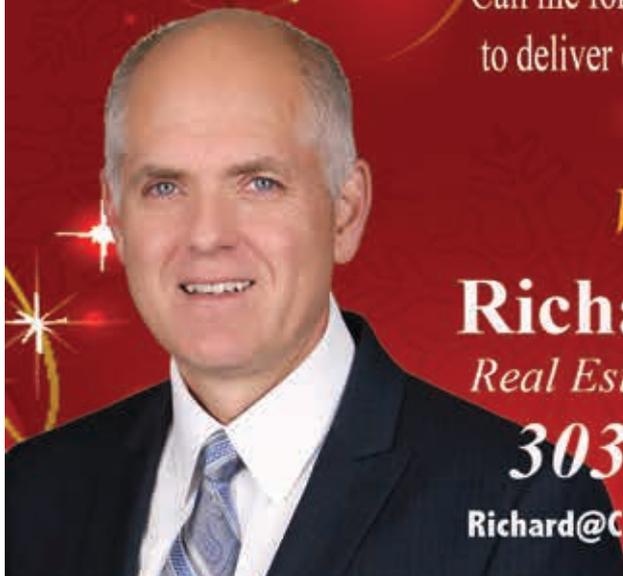
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# The Month (November)

During an executive session of the HGA Board on Nov. 15, Director Jay Bluestein resigned. He wrote the following letter to explain his action:

"To the members of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) and other HG residents who supported developing requirements for a Building Life Cycle study (BLCS). My deepest thanks to each of you. The Committee spent many hours and much energy in this effort.

"As chair of the committee and a director of the HGA Board (positions from which I resigned, effective 16 Nov.), I apologize for not being able to get board approval to proceed towards an agreement with the selected engineering firm. Prior to the HGA Board meeting, the committee met in a work session with directors. At the meeting, I presented the rationale for the proposed study and the company selected after a Request for Quote was evaluated by LRPC. Updates to the Long-Range Planning Procedure Memorandum (PM) were shared. Questions raised by directors were answered.

"At its regular meeting, the HGA Board voted to table two motions, revisions to LRPC PM and proceeding with developing a contract for the BLCS. The concerns raised about possible study results and real estate disclosure requirements need to be understood. But refusing to move forward is not proactive, nor is it in the best interest of HG. As some owners stated, 'burying one's head in the sand will not change the outcome.'

"My objective to be proactive about the future of HG was not supported by a majority of Directors.

"The future of HG is still to be determine. Although I resigned from the HGA Board, I will continue to do what I can as an owner towards getting the board to be proactive in their actions rather than being reactive. Prevent the fires from starting, rather than just putting out fires.

"To all residents, I wish you a safe and healthy holidays in the months ahead."

**Jay Bluestein, B223**

•••

Here are the results of the National Election on Nov. 8, as they affect HG residents.

- President Donald Trump/Vice President Mike Pence
- Senator Michael Bennet was re-elected
- Congressman Mike Coffman (District 6) re-elected
- State Representative Jovan Melton (House District 41) re-elected
- Senator Nancy Todd (Senate District 28) re-elected
- Senator Daniel Kagan (Senate District 26) replaced term-limited Linda Newell
- Director District F Bob Broom (RTD Board) replaced term-limited Tom Tobiassen

•••

At the Nov. 15 board meeting, Director Deb Stelle asked, "I'd like to know the rationale for continuing the Campus Technology Committee. What is their function?"

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# That Was...

Structure Maintenance Chair Kathy Buhrman replied, "We have technical issues, besides Comcast, coming up. To hook up buildings to WiFi, for example, would be a technology issue," not a function of long-range planning.

Director Linda Serio added, "We also have [issues with] cell-phone reception."

Jill Bacon, B244, stated, "We lost some very good people [when several resigned]. Now we are left with many years-old systems in place. I thought it was a travesty, how the [Comcast] contract was handled."

Tom Nugent, B221, added, "I wish the people [who resigned from CTC] would come back." Noting he had published a survey in *Heather 'n Yon*, asking for community input, Nugent admitted he'd received only 61 replies. About 40 of those wanted to continue negotiating a contract with Comcast.

Several speakers noted that \$73,173 had been spent on professional services, in pursuit of the Comcast contract. Treasurer Susan Lambert had pointed out earlier in the meeting that two actions by the board in 2015 (\$28,600) and one in 2016 (\$44,573) had approved expenditures, most of which (two-thirds) paid legal counsel to draft the contract and a telecommunications consultant to provide expertise.

...

General Manager Calvin Eddy-White reported to the Budget & Finance (B&F) Committee that HG's long-time preferred elevator contract, Precision Elevator, no longer was performing satisfactorily. HG is seeking another vendor. Precision was bought by another company, he said, and the level of service has dipped. The scheduled replacement of two building-elevator jacks might not happen this year.

...

Regarding the B217 fire, Eddy-White reported to B&F, HG "is not even close to a negotiated settlement" with the insurance company, for fire damage. Recent talks, however, have given Eddy-White optimism that the two sides are making progress in their negotiations.

...

A number of standing committees of the HGA Board could use a few more members. Committees study issues related to HG, including those referred to them by interested residents; evaluate the value of proposals; and

See Month...page 51

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The American Legion had a reception for HG veterans on Nov. 5. While sparsely attended, it is useful to remember that the Legion posts have advocates who can help you with any issues you are encountering at the VA, or with obtaining benefits.



# American Legion



Photos by Anne Hummel-Gillis



To schedule a veteran's burial, first fax all military discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, 1-866-900-6417. Or, scan and email to [NCA.Scheduling@va.gov](mailto:NCA.Scheduling@va.gov) with the name of the decedent in the subject line. Follow up with a phone call, 1-800-535-1117, once the documents are sent.

When you call, have the following:

- Cemetery of choice
- First or subsequent burial (veteran or dependent already buried)
- If subsequent interment, who is already interred, social security number and section and site number (if known)
- Decedent's full name, gender, SSN, date of death, date of birth and relationship (veteran or dependent)
- Funeral director's contact information: name, funeral home's name and address; and email address
- Next of kin information: name, relationship to deceased, SSN, telephone number, address, type of em-

- blem of belief or the headstone/marker (if desired)
- Did the decedent reside within 75 miles of requested cemetery? Please have county and zip code of decedent at time of death
- Type of burial: casket or cremation
- Marital status of deceased (if veteran is buried in a private cemetery, must provide documentation of marital status of spouse at time of death) and if the surviving spouse is a veteran
- Any disabled children for future interment (must provide name and date of birth). If requesting immediate interment (must provide marital status, doctor's statement on type of illness, date of illness onset and capability of self-support).
- Military Honors requested. It is important to note that scheduling military honors is the responsibility of the funeral home or family member requesting the interment. The representative you talk to will be able to provide those telephone numbers.

# Fall Craft Fair

The Clubhouse was filled with shoppers and sellers on Oct. 21–22 for HG's Craft Fair. Did you find that perfect gift for yourself or someone else?



Photos by Anne Hummel-Gillis



## Pedal the Plains...from page 17

"Winded," I replied.

"Draft on." The two switched lead every mile while I stayed close. We covered a number of miles and passed many singles. I was fatigued but determined to keep up. I lost them at the next aid station but soon found a young (20's?) man for drafting.

I caught up with Dawn in Sugar City, mile 66, my birthday milepost. It had taken every ounce of physical and psychological energy in my aging body to meet my goal. The rush I got when the goal was achieved boosted my adrenalin for an end-kick to mile 71. Ordway folk cheered as we cleared the finish, pressing cyclists with medallions and swag. I had bet the farm and won.

The ride improves with each retelling. I recall less of the fatigue and moments of discour-



agement. I describe to listeners the camaraderie and exhilaration experienced.

At Dawn's urging, I returned the shoes. Happily I was within the last two days for a full refund. Instead, I bought a pair of shoes with ventilating mesh along the entire sole at half the cost. An added bonus: they're easier to extract from the bindings.

— Dala Giffin



Left: Medallion given to all Pedal the Plains participants.  
Right above: Dala and Dawn took a photo break after breakfast at Bent's Old Fort, a National Historical Site.

## GM Report...from page 15

tor for Seville Spa repairs.

- Worked with Maintenance Connection on the new work order software.
- Worked on the reserve study.
- Worked with contractor for B217 carpet replacement.
- Worked with contractor for B222 roof re-coat.

### Custodial

- Completed 20 work orders and completed 10 set-ups at Clubhouse.
- Completed inspections of the Clubhouse, Restaurant, and B201-B206.
- Stripped and waxed laundry room floors in B201-B212.
- Removed cobwebs from B201-B212.
- Power washed all intake valves and windows in garages.

### Roads and Grounds

- Applied fall fertilizer.

- Completed fall garage sweeping schedule.
- Completed annual concrete repairs.
- Planted 13 trees on property.
- Constructed 20 new bollard posts.
- Completed annual mowing.
- Completed annual crack filling of asphalt surfaces.
- Began fall leaf removal.
- Prepared winter equipment.
- Purchased used crew cab pick-up.

### Golf

- Contractor completed waterfall work in October.
- Continued mowing and leaf clean.
- Continued stump grinding and leveling stump areas.
- Continued interviewing for mechanic's position
- Continued irrigation maintenance and hand watering.
- Installed additional drains behind #7 tee.

### Restaurant

- Held Men's and Ladies' golf banquets.
- Held Optimist pancake breakfast.
- Held a 90th birthday party.
- Held 2 late night entertainment events.
- Hired new full time hourly cook.

### Security

- Total of 314 reports written. Total 3,929 miles patrolled.
- Attend Mountain States Employers Council Seminar.
- Attended Arapahoe County Court.
- Started updating Resident Emergency Contact information and Key Release Forms.
- Attended ARO meeting.
- Attended Aurora Fire Department training for ARs on reverse 911.
- Continued updating SOPs to match HG Declaration.

**Employee of the Month:** Rene Portillo, Maintenance Department



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# Picnics...from page 19

took us deep into a woods where people were stirring pans over rock-lined beds of fire. They were choir members of a clandestine church, gathered to serve us a simple supper of fried eggs and bread. They welcomed us with smiles, supper and a choral offering. That picnic had little to do with food or weather, but a lot to do with sacrifice, courage and generosity.

Over the years, most of our picnics were much more ordinary — stops at roadside parks as my husband and I traveled from place to place, simple fare of bologna sandwiches and potato chips and cookies. But even these offered the special gifts of picnics — a respite from the routine of the day, freedom from the confines of home or car, and the comfort of sharing a simple meal with those we love the most.

— Renee Hermanson  
B216

Right: First snow in 2015 came while the trees in HG were still quite colorful. (Photo by Rudy Morris, B217)



## Join the Email Blast List

If you have not yet joined the Heather Gardens email blast for the latest news, meeting changes, cancellations, etc., see Lewis Boeve at the Reception Desk, or call him, 303-751-1811, to get on the list.

## Update Club Information for 2016 Directory

Clubs with contact information will be in the new Heather Gardens Community Directory for 2017. Stop by the Reception Desk to fill out a simple form for your club to have its information included.

— Kay Sawyer, Communications Committee

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# DECEMBER CALENDAR

<b>Thu 1</b>	HG Breakfast Optimist Club	Rendezvous Restaurant	8 am
	TOPS (every Thursday)	Blue Spruce Room	8:30–9:30 am
	<b>Clubhouse Event: Great Rabbis</b>	Blue Spruce Room	10 am
	HG Writers Club (every Thursday)	Mountainview Room	1–3:30 pm
	Bunko	Blue Spruce Room	1–3:30 pm
	Cribbage (every Thursday)	Arts & Crafts Room	1–3:30 pm
	Ping Pong Doubles/Intermediate (every Thursday)	Game Room	2–5 pm
	CP4 Social	Rendezvous Restaurant	5 pm
	ACBL Duplicate Bridge (every Thursday)	Blue Spruce Room	6:30–9:30 pm
	Kiwanis Club of Aurora (every Thursday)	Rendezvous Restaurant	6 pm
	Men's 9-Ball Billiard Tournament (every Thursday)	Billiards Room	7–9:30 pm
	<b>Fri 2</b>	Men with a Purpose Coffee	Skyview Room
500 Club (every Friday)		Blue Spruce Room	12:30–4 pm
Mah Jongg (every Friday)		Clubhouse Lobby	12:30–4 pm
<b>Clubhouse Matinee: The Meddler</b>		Sandberg Auditorium	1 pm
Men's Poker (every Friday)		Game Room	4–9:45 pm
<b>Sat 3</b>	<b>Clubhouse Movie: The Meddler</b>	Sandberg Auditorium	6:30 pm
	Mexican Train Dominoes (every Saturday)	Arts & Crafts Room	noon–4:30 pm
	Ping Pong Doubles/Intermediate (every Saturday)	Game Room	2–5 pm
	CP1 Holiday Party	Rendezvous Restaurant	5:30 pm
<b>Mon 5</b>	<b>Clubhouse Event - 1st Saturday Night Live Dance</b>	Sandberg Auditorium	6:30–9:30 pm
	Mah Jongg (every Monday)	Blue Spruce Room	12:30–4 pm
	Men's Bridge (every Monday)	Skyview Room	1–4 pm
<b>Tue 6</b>	Ping Pong Singles/Advanced (every Monday)	Game Room	2–5 pm
	Pinochle - Open (every Monday)	Mountainview Room	6:30–9:30 pm
	Bridge (every Tuesday)	Skyview Room	12:30–4 pm
	Hand and Foot (every Tuesday)	Mountainview Room	12:30–4 pm
	Mah Jongg (every Tuesday)	Blue Spruce Room	1–4 pm
<b>Wed 7</b>	Ping Pong Doubles/Intermediate (every Tuesday)	Game Room	2–5 pm
	B215 Happy Hour	Rendezvous Restaurant	5 pm
	Co-Ed Billiards Club (every Tuesday)	Billiards Room	6:30 pm
	Mobile Post Office	Circle Driveway	11:30–11:45 am
	<b>Clubhouse Event - Holiday Potluck and Bingo</b>	Sandberg Auditorium	noon–3 pm
	ACBL Duplicate Bridge (every Wednesday)	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room	1–4:30 pm
	Pinochle (every Wednesday)	Mountainview Room	1:30–4 pm

## Advertised Activities and Seminars

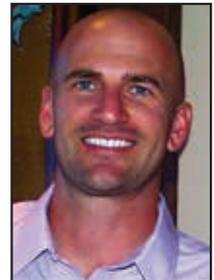
Sat, Dec. 3	Holiday Market, MorningStar at Dayton Place 10 am–4 pm (see ad, p. 43)	Mon, Dec. 12	Plan for Extended Care, New York Life, Mountainview Room, 10 am (see ad, p. 6)
Mon, Dec. 5	Bayer Ear Clinic (Every Monday) Arts & Craft Room, 9 am–noon (see ad, p. 16)	Sun, Dec. 18	Chapel Choir Presentation, Sandberg Auditorium 11 am (see ad, p. 4)
Fri, Dec. 9	Rocking Holiday Party, Harvard Square, 2–4 pm (see ad, p. 44)	Sun, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service, Sandberg Auditorium 4–5 pm (see ad, p. 4)



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Wed 7 (cont'd)	Men's Poker (every Wednesday) Square Dancing Club	Skyview Room Sandberg Auditorium	4-9:45 pm 7:30-9:30 pm
Thu 8	Green Team <i>Clubhouse Event: Watch Batteries</i> <i>Clubhouse Event: Great Rabbis</i> <i>Clubhouse Event - Smithtonian Handbell Choir</i>	Skyview Room Lodgepole Lounge Blue Spruce Room Sandberg Auditorium	noon 9 am-1 pm 10 am 6 pm
Fri 9	<i>Clubhouse Event - Lima Street Band</i> <i>Clubhouse Event: AARP Driving Course</i>	Sandberg Auditorium Blue Spruce Room	1 pm 1-5 pm
Sat 10	50 and Who's Counting <i>Clubhouse Event: Shred Event</i>	Aspen/Blue Spruce Room Clubhouse Parking Lot	5:30-9:30 pm 9-11 am
Mon 12	<i>Clubhouse Event: Register for Classes</i>	Clubhouse Lobby	9 am
Tue 13	VNA Clinic B203 and B204 Social Drinks/Dinner	Blue Spruce Room Rendezvous Restaurant	1-3:30 pm 5 pm
Wed 14	<i>Clubhouse Event - Active Minds: Winston Churchill</i> Tennis Club Social and Dinner <i>Clubhouse Event - Denver Brass</i>	Sandberg Auditorium Rendezvous Restaurant Sandberg Auditorium	2 pm 5:30 pm 7 pm
Thu 15	Bunko Residents' Open Forum	Blue Spruce Room Rendezvous Restaurant	1-3:30 pm 3 pm
Fri 16	Men with a Purpose Coffee <i>Clubhouse Matinee: Florence Foster Jenkins</i> <i>Clubhouse Movie Night: Florence Foster Jenkins</i>	Skyview Room Sandberg Auditorium Sandberg Auditorium	10 am 1 pm 6:30 pm
Sat 17	Wine and Cheese Social Club	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	3-5 pm
Mon 19	<i>Clubhouse Event: Guided Autobiography DVD</i> VNA Clinic	Aspen Room Blue Spruce Room	10 am 1-3:30 pm
Tue 20	Photography Club B205 and B206 Happy Hour	Aspen Room Rendezvous Restaurant	12:30 pm 5 pm
Wed 21	Colorado Symphony Guild (Hilltop SE Chapter) CP3 Social Capitol Update with Colorado Legislators	Rendezvous Restaurant Rendezvous Restaurant Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	11:30 am 5 pm 6:30 pm
Thu 22	<i>Clubhouse Event: Unique Sweater Party</i>	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	3-5 pm
Fri 23	<i>Management Offices Closed</i>		
Sat 24	<b>Christmas Eve - Clubhouse closes early</b>		5 pm
Sun 25	<b>Christmas Holiday - Management Offices and Clubhouse Closed</b>		
Mon 26	<i>Management Offices Closed</i> Low Vision Support Group	Arts & Crafts Room	1:30 pm
Tue 27	<i>Clubhouse Event: Chanukah</i>	Mountainview Room	6:30 pm
Fri 30	<i>Clubhouse Matinee: Finding Dory</i>	Sandberg Auditorium	1 pm
Sat 31	<i>Clubhouse Event - New Year's Eve Dinner</i> <i>Clubhouse Event - New Year's Eve Dance</i>	Rendezvous Restaurant Sandberg Auditorium	6-8 pm 8-11 pm
Sun 1	<b>Happy New Year! Management Offices and Clubhouse Closed</b>		

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### Bible Study (Interdenominational), Wednesday 8–9 am

We probe the Scriptures with an eye to practical applications for everyday living. It is a great mid-week boost. Women meet in the Aspen Room. Men in the Mountainview Room. For more information, call Daisy Hoeme, 303-752-2312.

**Six Stone Jars Catholic Bible Study**, Please join us for a journey through the Scriptures. Only requirement is your Bible. We meet @ 10:30 am Tuesdays, Sept.–May, in the Mountainview Room. For information, call Geraldine Pochowicz, 303-740-6105, or email [gerry.pochowicz@comcast.net](mailto:gerry.pochowicz@comcast.net).

**Rosary Prayer Group** - meets every Tuesday, 9 am, in the Aspen Room. For information, call Joe, 913-526-4177.

**Catholic Mass** - Saturday, 1 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. All HG residents are welcome. Father Terry Kissell presiding.

**Chapel (Interdenominational Church Service)** - 11 am, Sunday, Sandberg Auditorium. Reverend Bill Cheyne.

Bible Study - Sunday, 10 am, Mountainview Room. Leader: Reverend Bill Cheyne.

Coffee Time - 3rd Sunday, prior to the chapel service.

Prayer Meeting - 2nd Thursday, 2 pm.

## FYI

### Bent's Old Fort

Traditional Holiday Celebration: December 2-3

Witness the holiday pleasures and pastimes of the 1840s at an isolated trading post. Period games, foods, and festivities will enliven the fort. On Saturday there will be toy making in the shops, wagon rides, pinata breaks, yule log hunt, period games, frontier cooking, and blacksmithing. Reservations needed for the evening candlelight tours. Phone 719-383-5026 starting Nov. 1.

### Ham Radio Operators

The HG Emergency Preparedness Committee is considering using Ham Radio as a backup communication system in an extended emergency situation. A local repeater may be installed in the near future. If you are a Ham Operator, and would be interested, please send the following information: Name, Address, Phone, Email, and Ham Call Sign. Send to: Rudy Morris, B217, [rudymorris4@gmail.com](mailto:rudymorris4@gmail.com), 817-240-9394 (cell).

### Metropolitan Opera in cinema

*L'Amour de Loin*: 10:55 am Saturday, Dec. 10

Libretto by Amin Maalouf. Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho's breakthrough opera was described by the *New York Times* as "transfixing...a lushly beautiful score." Commissioned by the Salzburg Festival, where it was first seen in 2000, it will now finally have its Metropolitan Opera premiere in a dazzling new production by Robert Lepage, featuring glimmering ribbons of LED lights that extend across the length of the stage and over the orchestra pit. Eric Owens is the

## Heather 'n Yon Deadline - 12/14

### • Monthly Meetings • Boards and Committees

Civic Affairs – 10 am Thu, Dec. 1

Communications – 10 am Tue, Dec. 6

~~Golf – 1 pm Tue, Dec. 6~~

~~Long Range Planning – 10 am Wed, Dec. 7~~

Budget & Finance – 10 am Mon, Dec. 12

**HGA Board – 1 pm Tue, Dec. 13**

~~Foundation – 1:30 am Wed, Dec. 14~~

ACC – 10 am Thu, Dec. 15

**HGMD Board – 1 pm Thu, Dec. 15**

Resident Open Forum – 3 pm Thu, Dec. 15  
(Rendezvous)

~~Clubhouse/Rest – 9 am Tue, Dec. 20~~

Campus Tech – 10 am Tue, Dec. 20

Emergency Prepare – 1 pm Wed, Dec. 21

Roads and Grounds – 10 am Tue, Dec. 27

Structure Maintenance – 1 pm Tue, Dec. 27

knight on a quest of love and Susanna Phillips is his lover on the other side of the sea. Conductor Susanna Mälkki makes her Met debut.

• Century Aurora 16, 14300 E. Alameda Avenue, Aurora, 303-363-0300

• Greenwood Plaza 12, 8141 E Arapahoe Rd, Englewood, 844-462-7342

Tickets \$22 (seniors); \$24 (adults); \$18 (children), in advance or at the door. [www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas](http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas)

### Aurora History Museum

*The Doctor Will See You: Through April 9*

Early Aurora physicians often operated out of their homes or in small clinics. Explore the history of medicine in Aurora by learning about the doctors who cared for its citizens. 9 am–4 pm, Tuesday–Friday; 11 am–4 pm Saturday and Sunday. 15051 E. Alameda Pkwy. 303-739-6660, [auroramuseum.org](http://auroramuseum.org).

### Centennial House Open Days

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 10–11, noon–3 pm  
1671 Galena St. 303-739-6660

Visit one of the few remaining Fletcher homes from Aurora's founding in 1891. Enjoy free tours, tea and cookies. [auroramuseum.org](http://auroramuseum.org).

### VNA Senior Wellness Clinics

Charges: Toenail Cutting (includes blood pressure) \$45 (1st visit, 1 hour), \$35 (returning client); Fingernail trim \$15; Blood Pressures \$3; B-12 Shots (serum supplied by client) \$15, Glucose \$5. *If you cannot keep your appointment, please cancel or you will be charged \$5.* Have exact cash amount or checks, made out to "VNA." The clinic has no change.

### Schedule:

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 1–3:30 pm, Blue Spruce Room, Rebecca Hodgkins, 303-728-4368, or Barbara McShane

Monday, Dec. 19, 1–3:30 pm, Blue Spruce Room, Blanche McKinney, 303-751-6444

Monday, Dec. 19, 1–3 pm, Lung Capacity Tests by National Jewish Hospital. Call Rebecca Hodgkins, 303-728-4368

# Letters

## Heather 'n Yon

Lunch with the Aurora Police was once again a success. The police do enjoy coming to Heather Gardens and talking with the residents here. I would like to thank those who bought a lunch for one of them. It was greatly appreciated. Many thanks to: Larry Baker, Jessica Martinez, Vincent Velasquez, Shar Garret, and Alice Jackson. Because of you, we were able to bring in more officers and feed them a good lunch.

Thank you!

**Eilene Hogan  
B203**



## Heather 'n Yon

December is here. That means Christmas is coming and so is the Optimist Community Food Drive. This Friday, Dec. 2, the multi-story buildings will have boxes located in their lobby/mail rooms for food donations.

Orange totes will be located in the THs, CPs and Clubhouse. Notices have gone out to your ARs regarding the drive. Non-perishable food plus monetary donations are accepted. Your generosity will help supply the food pantries of Aurora churches.

Optimist Club members will be collecting food during the week of Dec. 5 with final pickup on Saturday, Dec. 10.

The club's goal this year is to collect over 5,000 pounds of food as we did last year.

Please give generously! Merry Christmas.

**Tom and Linda Merges  
B242**

## Heather 'n Yon

Correction to the article in the November issue of *Heather 'n Yon* about smoke detectors. I have learned that most of the smoke detectors that are AC powered in each condo do not have backup batteries, as I stated in the article. Thanks to the gentleman in B243 who called and brought this to my attention.

My condo has one because when we moved in (summer 2015), I replaced the old AC powered detector. Because I did not know how old the detector in our newly-purchased condo was, and since

smoke detectors are rated to last about 10 years, I removed it and replaced it with a new detector that has battery backup.

Back "in the day" the AC powered smoke alarm detectors often did not have backup batteries, but now the only way you can get one is with a backup battery.

If your AC powered smoke alarm detector is over 10 years old, or it does not have a backup battery built-in, you may want to buy a new one with backup battery. They

are available at Lowe's, Home Depot or Amazon on-line.

If you need help installing a new smoke alarm detector, contact HG Maintenance.

**Rudy Morris  
B217, Emergency Preparedness Committee**

## Heather 'n Yon

I am concerned and offended by the cover of the November 2016 issue of *Heather 'n Yon*. It was about Thanksgiving, a national holiday proclaimed by past presidents. To have a label saying "Give" with "Thanks" in very faint lettering is an insult to me and to the national holiday  
See Letters...page 33

*HG residents enjoyed Halloween in a variety of ways, different venues. Above: Jazzercise class dressed as zombies to dance to Michael Jackson's Thriller.*

*Right: Nick and Phyllis Maestas, B243, won 1st prize at the Eagles Club on Oct. 28 with their scarecrow outfits.*



*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 longer than 300 words be returned to the writer to shorten if editing cannot do it. Letters will not be run from the same individual in successive months. Writers may publish only 4 letters per year.*

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- Sharon creatively solved every problem/challenged that came up
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# Letters...from page 31

that recognizes our responsibility to see our blessings and to give thanks — yes to our creator (see Declaration of Independence) for life, for provision and for the blessings of liberty.

**Lilline Speer  
B219**

{Editor's Note: I'm sorry you were offended by the contrast between "Give" and "Thanks." The photographer and I share your sentiments about the holiday. It is my favorite. The photo was designed using household items that may have been handmade. There certainly was no editorial intent to the different shading of the words.}

## Heather 'n Yon

My three grown granddaughters paid a surprise visit the weekend before Mother's Day. Their grandpa Virgil had died the year before. It was a rainy icky Saturday.

I had kept the letters they had sent during their elementary school years, when they lived in Texas and North Carolina. Such fun we had

reading their letters! The letters contained information about boyfriends — "I didn't know you liked him!"

The oldest wrote in one letter, "Grandma, when I write 'black jelly beans' that means I love you!" Such a marvelous afternoon we had!

I was telling a friend about the visit, reading letters, etc. She told me about an incident in her life. She had gone to Europe to visit family for a month. On her return, she had a three-page love letter from her husband. She read it, then tore the letter up! Now, every day, she thinks about it. "If only I had it now."

I nearly cried! She is still heart broken. She cannot remember what prompted her to tear up the letter.

You never know what mood a person is in when they receive a written letter! That is why you keep them for a week or so. Read the letter each day. It is surprising how the content can influence your feelings.

**Maggi Ruby  
B216**

{Editor's Note: Maggi Ruby wrote several letters in June. One was pub-

lished in July. While this one could have appeared earlier, I forgot about it. When found recently, I thought that publishing it close to the holidays was most appropriate. Share your letters with friends and family — they may have more of an impact than you think.}

## Heather 'n Yon

I enjoyed and appreciated your reminiscences of your past [Publisher's Corner in the November issue of *Heather 'n Yon*]. I wish everyone could do more of that. Narrowing the time line between events and history is helpful in understanding the present. Of course, what happened "yesterday" is history today, but that doesn't mean the events of "yesterday" will have historic significance today. Your examination of "yesterday" helps to more quickly realize its significance today. God knows we really need that kind of help now!!

Also thought Mary Hafka did a great job on the Cavanaugh profile. Congratulations to her!

**Chet Flickinger  
B241**

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# Clubs and Organizations

## HG Breakfast Optimist Club

Have you ever thought of becoming an Optimist? The HG Optimist Club, started in 1978, is a service organization focusing on youth in our community. We meet at 7:55 am in Rendezvous, on the first and third Thursdays. First-time visitors get a complimentary buffet breakfast. For reservations, contact Jeannine Montgomerie, 309-310-5315, or [jmntg.1229@gmail.com](mailto:jmntg.1229@gmail.com).

Please join us on Dec. 1, to hear a holiday program featuring the Gateway High School Athenians Choir. No meeting on Dec. 15.

## TOPS

Take off pounds sensibly (TOPS) is so much more than just a weight loss group, or a diet group, or a support group, or a nutritional group, or a group that talks about how the food we eat affects our health. We are all of the above.

Did we mention we also are the least expensive weight loss group around? At only \$32 a year and 15¢ a meeting, it's a real bargain. We meet at 8:30 am every Thursday in the Blue Spruce Room. Come in around 8:15 am, so we can all say "hi" and welcome you.

The meeting ends at 9:30 am. We pack that hour with fun, support and education. Guests are welcome. For information, call or text Sandy Marthaler, 720-220-2678.

## HG Writers Club

Whether you're just beginning to put pen to paper or you are a published author, we invite you to join us for a time of education, fellowship and inspiration. New members are always welcome.

We currently meet 1-3:30 pm every Thursday in a Clubhouse room. Please contact Joanne Brand, 303-750-9722, for further information. We look forward to meeting you.

## Kiwanis Club of Aurora

This club is a member of a global organization of volunteers, dedicated to changing the world, one child and

one community at a time. The club meets 6 pm Thursdays at the HG Rendezvous Restaurant.

We also are on the web: [Aurora-co.kiwanisone.org](http://Aurora-co.kiwanisone.org). For more information, call Rich Richardson, 303-368-5747.

## Men with Purpose

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

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

## CP1

Our annual Winter Holiday Party will be 5:30 pm (cocktails) on Saturday, Dec. 3, at Rendezvous. A plated dinner will be served at 6 pm, with entertainment at 7. Each household is invited to bring a \$5 wrapped present, for a gift exchange. Our regular first-Wednesday happy hour will not meet in December.

## Joppa Daylight Lodge AF & AM

All Master Masons living in HG are invited to attend Joppa Daylight Lodge. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Radiant Temple, 225 Acoma St., Denver. Lunch is at 11:30 am, and Lodge is at 12:15 pm.

We are the only lodge that meets during the day in the Denver metro area. For information, call Bill Rapp, 303-953-1021.

## Meditation Group.

This group meets once a week, 10:30 am Wednesdays, in CP1. No meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 28. Offers a practical method to relax, focus, and improve the quality of your life. Free. Call Carl, 720-495-9979, for more information.

## Wood Shop Meeting

The next Wood Shop Club meeting will be at 4 pm Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the Mountainview Room. Please join us and bring your ideas, concerns and expertise. – Jim Sollecchio

## The Green Team

Anyone concerned about environmental issues is invited to our next meeting: noon Thursday, Dec. 8, in the Skyview Room. We presently are working on facilitating the recycle program for the 12 Alpha buildings, among many other issues.

Anyone desiring boxes for any need can help themselves by going to the back door of Rendezvous Restaurant. Restaurant Manager Kevin Olsen makes these boxes available between noon and three pm.

We wish to thank Joan Cotley for her excellent effort as our secretary these past months. – Leon Sonksen

## 50 & Who's Counting?

Join us for food and fun at our Holiday Dinner and white elephant gift exchange (bring a humorous gift). We meet 5:30 pm (for social time) Saturday, Dec. 10; dinner at 6, in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Room.

The entree will be provided, so please bring side dishes, appetizers, or desserts to share. After dinner, we will exchange gifts. Please call Sandy Brent, 720-281-7906, for reservations by Monday, Dec. 5; or email Sheila, [jd5646@gmail.com](mailto:jd5646@gmail.com). It will be a great time!

## Parkinson Support Group

The Parkinson Support Group of Aurora meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Life Care Center of Aurora, 1-3 pm, at 14101 E. Evans Ave.

## Ports of Call Singles

The original Ports of Call Singles (POCS) group is seeking new members. We recently celebrated our 35th anniversary. The club holds two social hours per month. The first is 4-6 pm on the second Monday of each month, at Senior Ric's.

The second is 4-6 pm, on the fourth Thursday, at Baker St. Pub. Call JoAnn Cunningham, B241, at

303-751-5195, membership chair, for the monthly newsletter and additional information.

### **Wine & Cheese Social Club**

Come join us on the third Saturday of each month, 3–5 pm. We get together in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. Everyone is welcome. Bring a bottle of wine and a snack. Enjoy socializing with other HG neighbors.

Entertainment is provided. If you have a talent you want to share, we invite you to join in. – Karen McClaury

### **Aurora Christian Women's Vital Network**

We invite you to join us the third Tuesday of the month, 9:30–11 am, at Blossoms in Windsor Gardens. We have a special feature that is always interesting, and a speaker who has an uplifting message.

We have brunch, which costs \$13, including tax and tip. Everyone is welcome. For information, call Mae Shockley, 720-748-2508.

### **Photo Club**

The Photo Club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm in Aspen Room.

### **Colorado Symphony Guild–Hilltop/Southeast Chapter**

The Hilltop/South unit of the Colorado Symphony Guild meets over lunch the third Wednesday of each month at Rendezvous. A business meeting starts at 11:30 am. We invite new members to join us.

RSVPs are required. For further information, call Connie Reger, 720-535-6485.

### **Seville Recreation Association**

SRA meets the fourth Monday of every month, 10 am, in a different Seville building each month. For information: Joe Moore, 303-671-4653.

### **Low Vision Support Group**

Our no-cost meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month, 1:30 pm, Mountainview Room. We hope you will join us. Marsha Bergen, 720-535-5224.

### **Genealogy Swap Shop**

No meeting in December. Our next gathering will be Tuesday, Jan. 17. If you are interested in finding your ancestors and tracing your family history, please join us on the third Tuesday of each month, 10 am–noon, Skyview Room. For information, contact Harold Thompson, 720-748-7090, or Ruth Miller, 720-535-4954.

### **HG Democrats**

HG Democrats will not meet in December. Instead, they will celebrate the holidays with their families and their friends. Meetings will resume in January. We wish ya'll the Happiest of Holidays ever. – Jim Towle

### **HG Republican Club**

The HGRC will not hold its usual fourth-Tuesday meeting on Dec. 27, two days after Christmas. The real news for 2017: change in meeting day. Beginning in January, the HGRC will meet on the first Tuesday of the month. The location will continue to be the Aspen Room, at 1:30 pm. This change has been made to allow the HGRC to get a head start each month.

We look forward to seeing you, to begin the New Year on Tuesday, Jan. 3. We wish you and your families a fabulous Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year. – Larry Swift

### **HG Aviation Club**

No December meeting, due to holiday schedules and conflicts. The next meeting of the HG Aviation Club will be the second Wednesday in January 2017.

Our planned program for November, about this summer's Osh Kosh 2016 AirVenture event, was cancelled due to technical issues. We had a short meeting, and shared some 2017 aviation calendar info and other resources.

We have rescheduled the Osh Kosh 2016 program for Jan. 11 meeting, 7 pm, in the Aspen Room. Happy Holidays, and "CU" next year in Jan.

### **League of Women Voters**

The League of Women

Voters of Arapahoe and Douglas Counties (LWVADC) will not meet in December. LWVADC will resume meeting in January 2017. For information, please call Charlotte Faris, 303-690-8466, or Mary Lou Scott, 303-481-8898.

### **Caregivers Support Group**

The Caregivers Support Group will not meet in December. Have a wonderful, blessed Holiday Season. Look forward to seeing you in January.

If you are a caregiver, and have been unable to attend our support group because your care receiver cannot be left alone, we have had an offer from an experienced person to provide care for them in another room nearby during our meeting. It is hoped this will open up an opportunity for more caregivers to be able to attend. Questions or comments, call Nancy Fuhr, 303-337-4890.

### **HG Grief Support**

Grief is the price of love. Our support group is a means to help you through the loss of your loved one. We give education, support and guidance. Eight-week sessions are held at the HG Clubhouse.

We care. For more information about the next HG Grief Support group, please call Joanne Brand, 303-750-9722.

### **Frolics Club**

We welcome all the new members who attended the Open House. The 2017 Spring Frolics production is already in the works. Auditions were held in November, and the director will be assigning roles, and disclosing details of the script.

In addition to performers, we welcome other talents. A lot goes on behind the stage, and everyone has something to offer. If you have a forte that could be used in the production, please contact Production Manager Jay Bluestein, 303-745-5646, or John Murphy, 303-671-0123. – M. Mines



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## Homes for Sale in Heather Gardens



### 3022 S. Wheeling Way #302 - \$159,900

2br/1ba – 930 sq.ft. Alpha E – Nice end unit. Super clean and move-in ready. New paint, new kitchen floor and newer carpet throughout.

### 13635 E. Bates Ave. #301 - \$165,000

2br/1ba – 930 sq.ft. Alpha E – Beautiful end unit with wood floors throughout. Remodeled kitchen w/new cabinets, tile counters & tile floors. Remodeled bath.



### 3164 S. Wheeling Way #304 - \$180,000

2br/2ba – 1200 sq.ft. Alpha A – Totally remodeled! New kitchen, paint and carpet. New vinyl double pane door & windows too. Quiet location backing to greenbelt.

### 13800 E. Marina Dr. #106 - \$245,000

2br/2ba – 1092 sq.ft. Seville A – Gorgeous remodel! Kitchen w/custom tile floors, new cabinets, Quartz counters & new appliances. New carpet, paint & more!



### 13908 E. Linvale Pl. - \$319,000

3br/3ba – 1176 sq.ft. Patio Home – Lovely patio home on quiet greenbelt. Updated cabinets & hardwood floors in kitchen. New carpet. New paint. Finished bsmt.

**Under Contract - 3022 S. Wheeling Way #306 - \$120,000**

**Under Contract - 3164 S. Wheeling Way #310 - \$177,500**

**Under Contract - 14390 E. Marina Dr. #411 - \$230,000**

**Under Contract - 14390 E. Marina Dr. #212 - \$235,000**

**Under Contract - 13991 E. Marina Dr. #609 - \$299,900**

**SOLD - 13713 E. Marina Dr. #B**

**SOLD - 3022 S. Wheeling Way #201**

**SOLD - 13606 E. Bates Ave. #405**

**SOLD - 13609 E. Cornell Ave. #111**

**SOLD - 14390 E. Marina Dr. #403**

**SOLD - 13890 E. Marina Dr. #601**



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# Sports and Recreation

## Bunko

Bunko is played 1–3:30 pm on the first and third Thursdays of each month in the Blue Spruce Room. For information: Debbie Brooks, 303-923-3809.

## Mexican Train Dominoes

We play noon–4 pm every Saturday, Arts & Crafts Room. Games start at noon and at 2 pm. For information, call Viola, 720-535-5638, or Peggy, 303-752-4696.

## Mah Jongg

We meet 12:30–4 pm every Monday and Friday, Blue Spruce Room or Clubhouse Lobby (see calendar, page 28), except the third Monday of each month, when the VNA has Blue Spruce Room. Then we meet in the Arts & Crafts Room, where three card tables are set up for us.

You must have the latest Mah Jongg League card. We play for a maximum of \$3 — bring your nickels, dimes and quarters.

All HG players are welcome. For information: Estelle, 303-750-0936.

## Men's Bridge

This group meets every Monday, 1–4 pm, in the Skyview Room. Call Maris Kuga, 720-748-0590.

## Ping Pong

Fun and free. Friendly competition, great exercise. Come and join us in playing table tennis.

Beginning players may meet on Fridays at 2 pm, but will need to call Hope Goetz, 303-750-2881. She can arrange for an advanced player to come help you learn the rules, and teach you to play. Bring a friend with whom to play.

Advanced and intermediate players are welcome Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 2–3:30 pm, Game Room.

## Pinochle

Evening Pinochle meets 6:30–9:30 pm Monday nights in the Mountainview Room. For information, call Ann Gagliardi, 303-332-2163.

Afternoon Pinochle meets

Wednesdays, 1:30–4 pm, Mountainview Room. We only play for fun and entertainment. With questions, call Virginia Walcher, 303-632-8039.

## Hand and Foot

This card game is fun, and easy to learn. We meet every Tuesday, 12:30–4 pm, Mountainview. With questions, call Phyllis Lann, 720-535-8531.

## Mah Jongg

We meet 1–4 pm every Tuesday, Blue Spruce Room, except the second Tuesday, when we play in the lobby (behind the fireplace).

All players welcome, including beginners. You must 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. Call Carol, 720-628-4051, or Pat, 720-535-4603, for information.

## Billiard Club

The schedule is: Co-ed 8-Ball, 7 pm Tuesdays; Men's 9-Ball, 7 pm Thursdays.

Annual dues of \$9 are payable on January 1 of each year. All new players are welcome.

Questions? Call Sean Kelliher, 720-427-6174.

## Co-ed 8-Ball

### October 18

- 1st Dee Moore,  
Milton (Bimp) Larry
- 2nd Connie Burns, Hi Reynolds
- 3rd Virginia Faubel,  
Lindy Davenport

### October 25

- 1st Geri Bartolini, Gil Lochhead
- 2nd John Murphy, Coy Whorton
- 3rd Joe Ozorkiewicz,  
Milton (Bimp) Larry

### November 1

- 1st Cindy Angelu, Lindy Davenport
- 2nd Connie Burns, Hi Reynolds
- 3rd Joe Ozorkiewicz,  
Milton (Bimp) Larry

### November 8

- 1st Judy Brehmer,  
Milton (Bimp) Larry

- 2nd Larry Schneller,  
Lindy Davenport
- 3rd Dee Moore, Chuck Finder

## Men's 9-Ball

### October 20

- 1st Lindy Davenport
- 2nd Roger Goldstein
- 3rd Chuck Finder

### October 27

- 1st Hi Reynolds
- 2nd Jim Crabb
- 3rd Coy Whorton

### November 3

- 1st Lindy Davenport
- 2nd Chuck Finder
- 3rd Greg Kachadoorian

### November 10

- 1st Gail Gibson
- 2nd Chuck Finder

## HG ACBL Duplicate Bridge

This club plays 1 pm Wednesdays and 6:30 pm Thursdays in the Blue Spruce Room. Help setting up is appreciated, so come early.

For more information, call John Osterberg, 720-535-1038, or Merrily VanZevern, 720-282-3199. For partnership information, call Corley Freisen, 303-872-3308.

## Square Dancing

Fun, exercise, and friendship. Come square dance on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 7:30–9:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium. Bob Riggs is the caller. All square dancers are welcome. Call Dolores Bendekgey with questions, 720-747-4666. Cost: \$5 per person.

## Tennis Club

The weather has been perfect for tennis this autumn. We could not have asked for any better.

Several members have been offering free lessons for people who are a bit rusty. This offer will continue, weather permitting. If you are interested, please call Coy Whorton, 720-281-7222, to arrange a convenient day and time.

Through the winter months, club members will play 1–3 pm every afternoon, except Sunday. We are a hardy bunch, and have been known to scrape off snow from the courts just to get in a few games. Please come join us! – Wendy Pfaffhausen

## Pickleball

The schedule for Pickleball will be emailed to everyone on the email list for December. We will play outdoors in the afternoon on the HG Pickleball courts on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, when the weather is nice.

We will be indoors when Sandberg Auditorium is available, now that the weather is getting colder. We always welcome new Pickleball players, so come join us. Enjoy this fast growing sport! Our free Pickleball clinics have ended and hopefully will be given again in the spring.

To see this fun sport in action check out: [plaidflannel.com/pickleball](http://plaidflannel.com/pickleball), If you want to learn more about Pickleball, or get on the roster, call Rosalie, 303-751-1226, or Judy, 303-369-6258.

## HG Men's Golf Club

With the end of the Men's Club tournament season, you may have thought that golf was done for the year. "Au Contraire!"

We have been blessed with

many more weeks of beautiful Colorado weather to enjoy our gem of a golf course. I hope golfers have been able to get out and enjoy it.

Besides "Mother Nature," I would like to recognize those who have made golf this year such a pleasure. Thanks to Bob Macaluso and his Pro Shop team: Mary, Bob and Debbie. Also the ever-diligent greens-keeping team. (Be sure to give them a high five when you see them). Together, they all work hard to provide us with a fantastic golf experience, and a wonderful asset for all HG residents.

If you enjoy golf, but are not a Men's Club member, now is the time to consider becoming one. The Pro Shop staff can provide you with an application, or use the HG Men's Golf Club website. Just return the application, and five HG Golf Course score cards, to the Pro Shop, and you will be able to join us for next year's season. You will enjoy it.

Until then, respect other golfers. Respect the course. Keep swinging!

## HG Ladies Golf Club

As our golf club season has ended there is not much to say, except what a great Fall season we are having. I hope each of you have been out golfing and enjoying this spectacular weather. Our board meetings will resume in January. I will let you know as 2017 information is available. In the meantime, Happy Holidays to each of you!

For new membership information, please contact Carolyn Manly, 303-745-1060, or complete the new members application form (located on our website). Drop it off at either the HG Pro Shop or the HGLGC mail slot located in the Clubhouse. Also, check out our website at [www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com](http://www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com) for additional HGLGC information.

– Charlane Plucheck



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# Merry Christmas



*Happy Holidays*

**Patio Home New Listing \$325,000**  
Lovely 3 bedroom 3 bath PH with quiet interior, updated kitchen & baths, newer neutral carpet, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, finished basement with bedroom (non conform), bath & family rm, att gar

**2 Story Townhome New Listing \$292,900**  
Sharp remod kit w/ newer cabs/centers & breakfrs, 2300+ sq. ft. w/ 4 bed, 4 ba, lrg Master Suite, vntd ceilings, newer crpt, cork/tile flrs, gas frpl, fin bsmt w/ ba, family/theatre rm 4th Non-conform bed & attached gar.

**2 Story Townhome GC Location \$310,000**  
Nicely Updated 3 bedroom 3 bath TH w/ enclosed patio overlooking HG Golf Course, w/d, fireplace, Att. gar.

**Somerset F New Listing-GC Views \$285,000**  
Beautiful 1560 sq. ft. corner F unit w/ GC View, gl encl lanai. Remod Kit & baths. Newer neutral crpt/pt, plantation shutters, newer windows, w/d & gar parking

**Somerset F Coming Soon-With Golf Course Views**  
Lovely updated 1550 Somerset F w/ new carpet/paint/window covering, newer appl, 2 lanais, w/d, gar prkg

**Four Story A Golf Course Location \$195,000**  
View of 8th Fairway! Lovely 1200 sq. ft. 2 bed, 2 bath with updated kitchen & bath, vaulted ceilings, neutral carpet, new paint, wood floors, enclosed lanai, 2 storage lockers & 2 prkg spaces. Short walk to clubhouse.

**Four Story A New Listing \$185,900**  
Beautifully updated 1200 sq ft 2 bed 2 ba unit nestled in the tree tops. Spacious open flr plan w/ updt kit w/ oak cabinets, corian counters & newer appl/carpet, laminate flrs, glass lanai, enclosed prkg & 3 strg

**Somerset C New Listing-GC View \$252,000**  
Beaut. Updtd 1400 sq. ft. 2 bed 2 ba w/ remod Master Suite, gl encl lanai w/ GC view & gar prkg.

**Atrium A GC-Full Front Range View \$249,900**  
\$50,000 in "Top of Line" upgrds. wood flrs, dsc, wht drs, \$7,000 shwr, gl ecl lanai, w/d & gar prkg.

**Four Story A 10+ GC Location \$190,000**  
View of 8th Fairway & water, encl lanai. 1200 sq. ft. 2 bed 2 ba w/ updt kit & ba. Formal L/D, 2 strg lkrs

**Seville B New Listing-Updated \$135,000**  
Nicely updated 784 sq. ft. 1 bd 1 ba w/ nice view, crpt/paint, kit appl, w/d, 2 strg lkrs & gar prkg

**Atrium N Full Glass Enclosed Lanai \$140,000**  
1 bed 1 ba, glass encl lanai. New crpt/pt, gar prkg

**Seville Exec Exquisite Remodel \$315,000**  
\$57,000 in upgds. 3 bd 3 ba 1876 sq. ft., Kit. Frpl, w/ new cabs/granite counters, 2 Masters Suittes

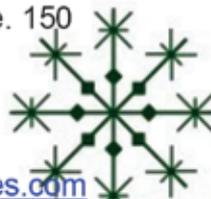
**Somerset A New Listing-GC View \$218,000**  
1200 sq. ft. 2 bed 2 ba w/ updt eat-in kit & bath, Master suite, gl encl lanai, GC view, gar parking.

**HG TH New Listing-GC Location \$312,000**  
Lovely updated 4 bd, 4 ba, (1 Non-conform) remod, lrg Mstr, new crpt, nwr windows, frpl, atr garage.

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# Employee Recognition

## Employee of the Month

Rene Portillo has worked for HG since April 2015 as a Utility Worker. He has become a valued employee in the Maintenance Department. Rene was responsible for moving the dumpsters and recycle bins out of the buildings for trash pickup, then returning them to the buildings every day. He learned the trash schedule very quickly. He successfully maintained the dumpsters and dumpster rooms.

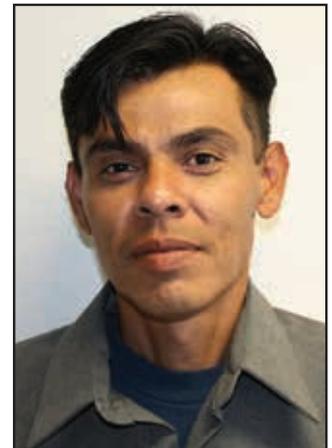
In July 2015, Rene was given the opportunity to move to a Maintenance Apprentice's position. In addition to his apprentice duties, he has assisted his co-workers

with many special projects. Rene is always helping out, going above and beyond to maintain Heather Gardens.

For these reasons, I am pleased to announce Rene Portillo as Employee of the Month for October 2016.

– Calvin White, CMCA  
General Manager

Rene Portillo  
Maintenance Department



## HGMD Foundation

The Foundation Committee received a full report from Roads and Grounds Supervisor Jeff Owens regarding the tree planting project. Although staffing and weather issues have somewhat hampered progress so far, Jeff presented a great plan for new plantings, beginning in May 2017, when the weather is expected to be more amenable. It was also noted by the committee that both Owens and Golf Course Supervisor Brian Benko, who briefed the committee last month, are doing a fabulous job towards keeping up the grounds.

The committee voted to recommend to the HGMD Board that Foundation funds be used to refurbish and enhance the holiday lighting displays on the grounds surrounding the Clubhouse. Due to the holidays and no foreseen impending business, the December meeting of the Foundation Committee was cancelled. The next meeting will be Jan. 11, 2017, at 1:30 pm.

The Foundation Committee may have vacancies coming up in the following months. If you are interested, please contact me or someone on the committee. Thanks!

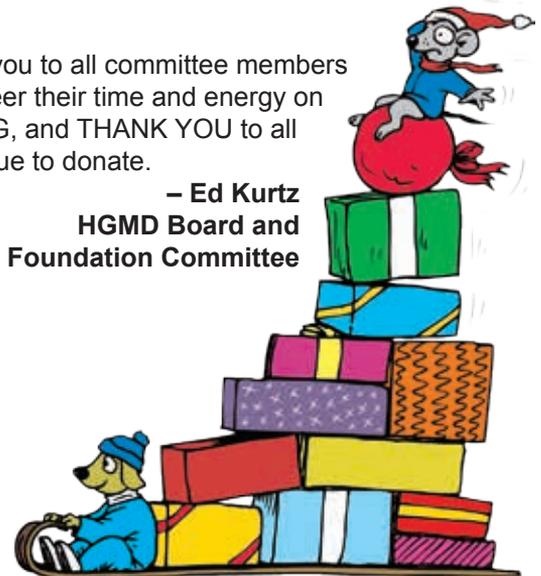
To date, donations to the Foundation Fund have been \$2,408 for the year and expenditures have been \$96,151, for the same period.

### Donations to the Tree Fund, October 2016

- Mary Webb in memory of Carolyn Cullip
- Eunice Glauth in memory of Shirley Scott and Lynn Steckman

Thank you to all committee members who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of HG, and THANK YOU to all who continue to donate.

– Ed Kurtz  
HGMD Board and  
Chair, Foundation Committee



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# Trips and Tours

Please note, Trips are released by RTD quarterly. New trips will be released in mid December for January, February and March. More detailed information on each trip will be on the Trips Flyer in the Clubhouse, once available. All trips listed for December have reached their deadlines; please contact the Clubhouse if you would like to get on the wait list.

## Denver MountainAires: Holiday Harmony

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2 pm  
Arvada West High School  
Cost: \$11

This festive holiday celebration with four-part barbershop harmony and a handbell choir.

## I'll Be Home For Christmas

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1 pm  
Arvada Center  
Cost: \$57

The Bright family prepares for their annual Christmas variety show (1969).

## Dazzle

Thursday, Dec. 8, 10 am  
Cost: \$23

Lunch and live jazz!

## Sound Of The Rockies: Welcome Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2 pm  
Newman Center  
Cost: \$24

Sound of the Rockies presents its annual Christmas Spectacular

## Holiday Lights

Monday, Dec. 5, 6 pm, DT Denver  
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6 pm, DT Denver  
Monday, Dec. 19, 6 pm, DT Denver  
Cost \$3

The RTD Holiday Light tour.

**Wait List**

## It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 1:30 pm  
Lone Tree, Main Stage  
Cost: \$38

This beloved American holiday classic comes to captivating life on the Lone Tree Arts Center stage as a live 1940s radio broadcast.

## The Nutcracker

Saturday, Dec. 17, 1 pm  
Ellie Caulkins Opera House  
Cost: \$68

Colorado Ballet's 56th annual production of Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*.

## Finding Neverland

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2 pm  
The Buell Theatre  
Cost: \$60

*Finding Neverland* tells the incredible story behind one of the world's most beloved characters: Peter Pan.

## TRIPS POLICY

No transfers or refunds. *Non-residents may only attend as the guest of a resident.* Note that RTD trip times listed are not actual departure times. Courtesy calls are made 2-3 days prior to trip to give check-in times and any other pertinent information. Please call if unable to attend. Bring your receipt to trip check-in. **All times are approximate (RTD).**

Please note the payment deadline for each trip. Don't wait until just before the trip departure date to register or you'll miss it!

The local fare for SeniorRide

and Senior shopper is **\$2.60 round-trip for passengers 65 years or older** and \$5.20 round-trip for all other passengers. Regional fare is \$4.50 round-trip for passengers 65 years or older and \$9 round-trip for all other passengers. Fare paid to driver.

All HG trips include an escort and small administrative fee. RTD fares are not included in trip fees and are to be paid to RTD bus driver at time of pickup. Exact change required. Drivers and HG staff do not have change available.

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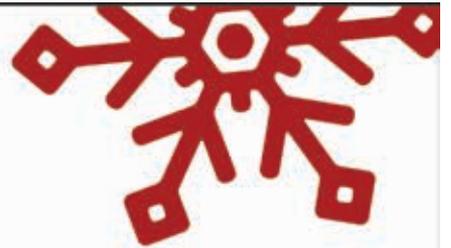
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# ROCKING HOLIDAY PARTY

**Friday, December 9th • 2:00pm – 4:00pm**

Forget the rocking chair, we're rockin' around the Christmas tree and you're invited. Get into the holiday spirit and join us in an interfaith celebration of the season. We're dishing up live music by The Osburn's Band and tasty treats representing different cultures around the globe. Come enjoy the festivities with us.

Please RSVP to 1-303-328-9905 by December 6th.

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# HG Clubhouse Events

*Please bring your receipt to the event.*

**Clubhouse Hours: 6 am to 10 pm, Monday–Saturday  
6 am to 8 pm Sunday • Phone 303-751-1811  
Clubhouse Manager Linda Aluise  
Assistant Clubhouse Manager Lewis Boeve**

**Winter class schedules will be available on  
Monday, Dec. 12. Registration begins on  
Monday, Dec. 19, 9 am.**

## Holiday Schedule:

*Saturday, Dec. 24: Clubhouse closes at 5 pm  
Sunday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day (Clubhouse closed)  
Sunday, Jan. 1: Happy New Year! (Clubhouse closed)*

## Great Rabbis, Great Insights

Thursday, Dec. 1, 10 am, Blue Spruce Room  
Thursday, Dec. 8, 10 am, Blue Spruce Room  
FREE: Registration requested, call 303-751-1811

A weekly exploration of a great Torah leader and his thoughts on the weekly Torah reading. Rabbi Fleisher will discuss the weekly Parsha, telling the story of a great Rabbi, and then share some of his insights on the Parsha.

## Movie Matinee and Night: *The Meddler*

Friday, Dec. 2, 1 pm and 6:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium  
Fee: \$4 pre-register, \$5 on day of event  
\$12 for Dinner and Movie (Italian Buffet)

With a new iPhone, an apartment near the Grove, and a comfortable bank account left to her by her beloved late husband, Marnie Minervini has happily relocated from New Jersey to Los Angeles to be near her daughter Lori, a successful (but still single) screenwriter, and smother her with motherly love. When the dozens of texts, unexpected visits, and conversations dominated by unsolicited advice force Lori to draw strict personal boundaries, Marnie finds ways to channel her eternal optimism and forceful generosity towards changing the lives of others — as well as her own — and find a new purpose in life. Stars Susan Sarandon. PG 13. 1 hour 40 minutes.

## 1st Saturday Night Live Dance

Saturday, Dec. 3, 6:30–9:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium  
Music by Tom and Shirley Yook  
Saturday, Jan. 7, 6:30–9:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium  
Music by Terry Norona  
Fee: HG resident, \$5

Non-resident and on the day of event, \$7

Enjoy an evening of dance, good music and good friends. There will be dance hosts, mixer dances and light refreshments. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased at the restaurant bar prior to 7 pm. Bar opens at the dance at 7 pm. Note: Dance hosts receive complimentary admission, and the event can always use more volunteers for that pleasant task.

## Holiday Potluck and Bingo

Wednesday, Dec. 7, noon–3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium  
Fee: \$2 payable at the door

All are welcome. We'll provide the turkey, you provide the side dish. Bring a potluck dish to share, according to your last name:

A–G: Dessert  
H–N: Salad dish  
M–T: Potato or stuffing dish  
U–Z: Vegetable dish

Registration requested, so we know how much turkey to cook! After lunch, we'll play a few rounds of Bingo for some great holiday prizes.

## Watch Batteries

Thursday, Dec. 8, 9 am–1 pm, Lodgepole Lounge  
Fee: \$6 per battery.

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

## Smithtonians

Thursday, Dec. 8, 6 pm, Sandberg Auditorium  
Cost: \$5 in advance, \$7 on the day of event

The Smithtonian Handbell Ensemble is a community handbell choir based in Littleton, Colorado, founded in 1983. Ringers have a combined experience of over 250 years. Most members ring in several church or community groups. Many are (or have been) bell choir directors. Music is selected with two goals: entertaining the audience, and challenging the players.

## Lima Street Band Holiday Celebration

Friday, Dec. 9, 1 pm, Sandberg Auditorium  
Fee: \$3

Get in the holiday spirit with the Lima Street Band. You'll recognize the songs and get your toes a-tappin. Great music for the holiday season.

## AARP Drivers Safety

Friday, Dec. 9, 1 pm, Blue Spruce Room  
Fee: \$15 AARP Member/\$20 non-member

A certified AARP instructor teaches this course. Class size is limited, so registration is required. Pay the instructor on the day of the class.

## Shred Event

Saturday, Dec. 10, 9–11 am, Clubhouse Parking lot  
Fee: \$5 per 3 bag/boxes per person.

Get all your personal documents shredded on site by Curbside Shredding.

## Active Minds: Winston Churchill

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium  
FREE: Registration requested, call 303-751-1811

As one of the key architects of the Allied victory in World War 2, Winston Churchill is widely regarded as one of the most important political leaders of the 20th Century. Churchill's life before becoming prime minister of England, his years in the job, and his lasting impact on his country and the world will be examined.

### **Brass for the Soul; Denver Brass Ensemble**

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7–8:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Cost: \$7 in advance; \$9 on the day of event

This is our annual visit from the nationally known Denver Brass. They will play many old favorites, new tunes and offer some humor for an enjoyable evening.

### **Movie Matinee and Night: Florence Foster Jenkins**

Friday, Dec. 16, 1 pm and 6:30 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Fee: \$4 pre-register, \$5 on day of event

\$12 for Dinner and Movie (Fish and Chips Buffet)

In the 1940s, New York socialite Florence Foster Jenkins (Meryl Streep) dreams of becoming a great opera singer. Unfortunately, her ambition far exceeds her talent. The voice Florence hears in her head is beautiful, but to everyone else it is quite terrible. Her husband St. Clair goes to extreme lengths to make sure his wife never finds out how awful she truly is. When Florence announces her plans for a concert at Carnegie Hall, St. Clair soon realizes that he's facing his greatest challenge yet. PG 13. 1 hour 51 minutes.

### **Guided Autobiography Class DVD**

Monday, Dec. 19, 10 am, Aspen Room

FREE: Registration requested, call 303-751-1811

Are you interested in taking the winter class in Guided Autobiography? Attend this worthwhile program about the class and watch the DVD, *Guided Autobiography* by Dr. James Birren. The DVD describes the format and

methodology utilized in the class. Instructor Dr. Eugene Dawson will be available to answer questions from interested viewers.

### **Unique Sweater Party**

Thursday, Dec. 22, 3–5 pm, Aspen/Blue Spruce Room

Fee: \$6 in advance, \$8 on the day of event.

Show your holiday spirit by putting on your favorite holiday sweater, vest, tie, or other garment to show off. Contest for best sweater and other categories will be awarded. Hot toddys will be served along with other holiday beverages and treats. Bring a friend, neighbor or family member to join in the holiday spirit.

### **Celebrate Chanukah**

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 6:30 pm, Mountainview Room

Join us for a lighting of the Chanukah candles, sing some Chanukah songs and share a thought about Chanukah. All are welcome. Refreshments served.

### **Intergenerational Movie: Finding Dory**

Friday, Dec. 30, 1 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Cost: \$4 in advance, \$5 on the day of event

Bring your grandkids for a fun afternoon. *Finding Dory* reunites the friendly-but-forgetful blue tang fish with her loved ones. Everyone learns a few things about the true meaning of family along the way.

### **New Year's Eve Dance**

Saturday, Dec. 31, 8–11 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Dinner & Dance Ticket: \$32

Dance Only Ticket: \$15

Dinner Only Ticket: \$17

Dinner: 6–8 pm (Rendezvous Restaurant)

Dance: 8–11 pm

Bring in the New Year at the Clubhouse with an elegant dinner, then dance to the live music of Memories. Celebrate the "ball drop" on New York City time. Due to limited seating in Sandberg Auditorium, you must pre-register for this event. Walk-ins accepted on a space available basis. Register at the Clubhouse Reception Desk.

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!**

## **Clubhouse Annual Cleaning**

The holiday season is here and it's time for some annual cleaning projects around the Clubhouse. The **indoor pool and hot tub will be closed and drained Dec 19–Jan 6, 2017**. Both pools will be thoroughly cleaned. Locker rooms will be power sprayed. All lockers will be thoroughly cleaned.

The Clubhouse will also get some touch up painting. Other minor repairs and cleaning will be done. We ask all club members, instructors and students: please clean out your storage areas for the new year. We will go through all cupboards and clean out any food items or expired items. Thank you for being patient with these closures while HG works to keep things sparkling and running smoothly.

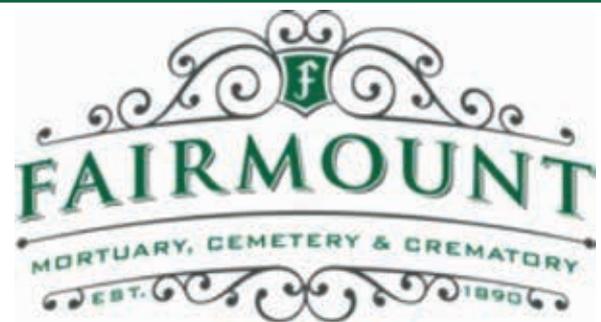
### **How About a Bus?**

#### **Leave the Driving to Us!**

HG is researching the possibility of having its own transportation for day trips and shuttle service to the Clubhouse. We would like to have your input. Watch for a survey via email, or pick up a copy at the Clubhouse.

### **Gift Certificates Available**

Looking for that perfect gift? Why not purchase your friend or loved one a Gift Certificate for a class or activity at the Clubhouse? You can purchase any denomination of \$5 or over. Lots of special events coming up for the holidays and 2017. Give the gift that keeps on giving.



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## PROPERTY FOR SALE

**Wanted to Buy:** 3 bedroom, 2 bath J unit with in-unit laundry, underground parking. Updated or fixer. Please call Ellen, 352-693-4726, 352-789-3756.

## FOR RENT

**Beautiful, Bright Somerset Condo.** 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 6th floor at 14102 E. Linvale Pl., B219. 1200 sq. ft., scenic views, balcony, 1 reserved garage space indoors. HOA fees included. Non-smoking. No pets. Washer/dryer. Rent: \$1,300. Call 720-879-1697 for a showing.

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**Avon Calling!** Please call Johnnie, 720-334-0759.

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ano music that warms the heart. Over 60,000 in use, in US, Canada and Australia. Call 303-506-4897. [www.MusicByWoodSong.com](http://www.MusicByWoodSong.com)

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**Massage Therapy In Your Home.** For seniors. Massage can help improve circulation, promote relaxation, aid in joint mobility, and reduce stress and tension. HG references available. Call Cheryl Raney, CMT, 303-373-1694.

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**Cat Care.** I am a cat mommy looking to spoil yours with great care, reasonable rates. Call Joan, 303-750-2507.

**Professional Pet Sitter.** Pet sitting, dog walking, overnight visits and more. With over 8 years of experience. Call Crystal, Peek-A-Boo Pet Sitting, to care for your pets when you are away. 303-809-4779.

**Just Call Jill.** I'm here to help. Any task, just ask. 24-hour airport drop off and pick up. Dependable rides. HG resident senior concierge. Last-minute appointments OK. Call Jill, 303-929-6351.

**Companion/Helper** for shopping, cooking, transportation, light housekeeping, moral support, pet care. No extra charge for sense of humor, commitment and integrity. HG references upon request. Call Sue, 303-324-1010.

**Companion, Caregiver, CNA, PCA.** 14 years experience. Dependable, compassionate, integrity. Grocery shopping, doctor, hair appointments, laundry, light housecleaning. Affordable rates. HG refer-

ences. Available Mon.-Fri. 8 am-noon, Sat. by appt. only. Sarah Lee, 720-297-3317.

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**Companion/Loving Caregiver.** Highly experienced caregiver for all your needs. Dependable and will offer quality care for all your needs. Affordable rates. Available Mon-Sun. References available. Call Rose, 720-329-8067.

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cleaning HG residents — references. Bonded, insured. Call Carmen for free estimate, 303-921-6685.

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#### WANTED

**Electric Scooters.** Wanted to buy. Alan, 303-232-1212. HG resident, serving HG 10 years.

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**Wanted: Ammo and Knives.** Alan, 303-232-1212. HG resident, serving HG 10 years.

**Somerset, Seville, Atrium Doors.** Dark oak kitchen cabinets. Please call me. Clifford Bird, Seville resident, 720-320-1448.

## Month

...from page 23  
make recommendations for adoption to the HGA Board.

Members needed:

- Architectural Control 1
- Civic Affairs 2
- Structure Maintenance 1
- Campus Technology 3

Residents who are interested in serving should obtain an application form, available on the [www.heathergardens.org](http://www.heathergardens.org) website, or from the Management Office. Committee chairs for 2017 will be announced at the December HGA Board meeting.

...

On Nov. 15, Aurora

Chief of Police Nick Metz issued a bulletin on the Aurora Police Department's (APD's) policy on immigration enforcement.

"Since the [presidential] election, many questions have been raised about Aurora Police Department's current non-enforcement policy on immigration. Specifically, people are asking if we intend to change our policy. The simple answer is: No.

"APD's policy on immigration will remain: Officers will not enforce, investigate, or detain individuals based on their immigration status.

"Our policy is not based on politics or personal phi-

losophy. It is based on public safety. It is our goal to ensure that all individuals within Aurora feel safe in reporting emergencies and working closely with the APD to ensure our city remains a safe place for all.

"The city's responsibility is to provide services to all residents, enforce local laws and build strong community partnerships."

...

Several activities drew veterans during November, which had a Veterans Day holiday on Nov. 11. Two days before, several residents attended Aurora's Salute to Veterans at Wings over the Rockies Museum.

Gloria Shea, CP5, attended a program on Nov. 7 at Overland High School, "Marvelous brunch followed by a musical performance." She described walking through the school hallways with other veterans while students cheered and waved flags.

On the holiday, HG had its event to honor residents who are veterans in Sandberg Auditorium.

...

Communications Committee Chair Kay Sawyer reported that HG had 29 condos on the market as of Nov. 1; 14 sold in October; 18 were under contract. The average days on the market was eight.

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**Overheard @ HG**

## **Game of Thrones warned us — winter is coming**

**by Morticia Hafka**

Thanks to all my loyal readers for their cards and questions, addressed to the “Ask Miss Morticia” column. Since moving to HG six months ago, it has been my stated purpose to help make HG a more gentele, refined neighborhood by promoting courtesy, good taste and an exquisite ambiance.

I must state that, sadly, I recently encountered an obstacle to my noble goals. On Nov. 17, I confronted a force at HG that is so cruel, so sinister and so invasive, that it shan't be allowed to stand.

The force is cold, bleak, and stark, blanketing everything. I understand that you humans call it snow.

It seemed that it was only hours before, prior to the coming of the whiteness, that I was romping in the sunlight, and rolling on the ground in golden leaves. How carefree life was then!

After an 80-degree Indian-summer day, the frozen plague descended. Fighting back, I attempted to call security, to report this insidious invasion of uninvited granules, and demand to know what security intended to do about it. (It's hard to punch the right buttons on the phone, with puppy-pad paws, but I valiantly attempted it.)

My human didn't appear to find calling security a good idea, though. She interfered with the call. My rescuers never came to the rescue.

No civilized canine should be forced outside in such weather, which is why I believe that my human and I need to renegotiate the house-training contract. She is fairly rigid. Sadly, she is not seeing this reasonable accommodation from my viewpoint.

In response to the cold and wet, my human merely produced an armload of doggie coats, from winter

storage. The contents of her collection would make the organizers of an Ugly Sweater Contest sit up and applaud.

It was upsetting to observe which dog jacket she tried on me for each successive day's walk. Consider the red and black flannel checked coat, with a thick fleece lining, which makes me look like a lumberjack.

One jacket is a denim affair, with silver-stud snaps running up the front. Accessorized with a bandana and ear stud, I could wear this costume for Halloween, posing as a biker dude.

One velour hoodie is primarily orange, with blocky checks across the middle, and a Velcro fastener. Go Broncos!

And the worst of all is an old red, cable-knit sweater, which is too long, and hangs badly. It's decorated with — shudder — snowflakes.

So, clad like a clown, I was paraded through the neighborhood, up and down the lanes, on my quadruple-daily walks. In a cemetery, somewhere in France, Coco Chanel is spinning in her grave.

The actual walking in snow presents its own set of hazards. While attempting to set a brisk, graceful pace, trotting gamely along in adverse conditions, I found myself running in place, because my feet could get no traction on an icy patch of ground. I could have taken a nasty fall; however, my superior balance and coordination saved me.

On the second day, as the snow began to melt, the concrete drain pans that traverse the neighborhood filled with gushing water. I paused patiently on one side of the drain pan. I expected a gentle ferryman to come along, in a small boat, to convey me safely to the other side.

The ferryman must have been

on break, however. No help arrived from, and I was forced to splash inelegantly through the icy water.

I froze my delicate toes, and ruined my Pet Smart pedicure. I know that some of the mail-order catalogs that cram my human's mailbox offer such useful accessories as mink-trimmed doggy booties. None had been ordered by Nov. 17, unfortunately. So I had to rough it.

I hate roughing it. Refined lady dogs shouldn't have to rough it. Humans should take their pet-ownership responsibilities more seriously.

A human can order tubes of Paws & Pups Healing Silk paw balm from Amazon, for only \$14.98, to protect a dainty paw from winter drying and cracking. (Did my human pre-order me any paw balm? She did not.)

At the very least, I expected a fortifying mug of warm coca after my harrowing adventure. That didn't arrive, either.

This foreign stuff called snow had far-reaching effects, beyond my own inconvenience. A slew of pleasant, young workers had been brightening HG in prior days, whistling while they worked, installing new siding and roofs, re-bricking chimney, and generally making our community a shinier, better place.

In a flash, they were gone. They fled in horror, and disappeared, chased off by the specter of becoming covered in snow, and transforming into White Walkers (see earlier Game of Thrones reference).

Two days after the original traumatic event, the sunshine returned. Globes of snow melted from the trees, and fell, with a plop, onto my head.

But, at least, the menace went away. The snow vanished, with a hiss, like the melting of the Wicked Witch from The Wizard of Oz. (What a world, what a world!)

Now that I have sounded a clarion alarm, I'm confident that all residents of HG will be more vigilant. Forewarned is forearmed — so be on your guard, to ensure that the evil white interloper never falls onto HG property again.



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**SOLD!** 13626 E Bates Ave #211 Alpha A 2bd/2ba, 1200 sq.ft. New Paint, New Carpet and laundry just steps away. Tree-lined views and cross ventilation end unit. Updated appliances, full glass lanai .....**\$187,500**

**SOLD!** 13661 E Marina #411 Somerset J 2BR/2BA + Den, 1400 sq.ft. End unit with south west views overlooking golf course. New paint, updated appliances and flooring. Screen/glass lanai.....**\$233,000**

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