



# Heather n Yon

Heather Gardens  
Community Magazine

August 2026

Vol. 40, No. 6





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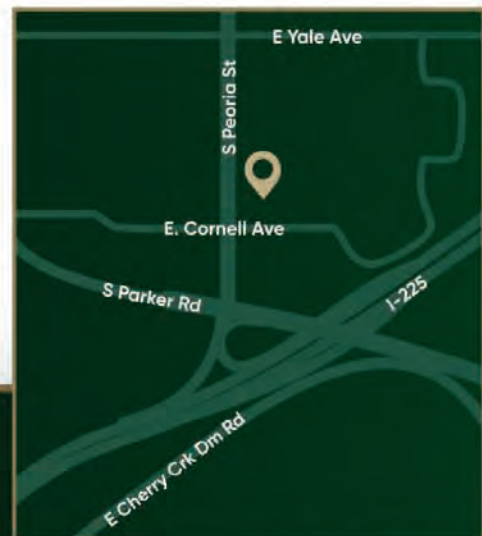
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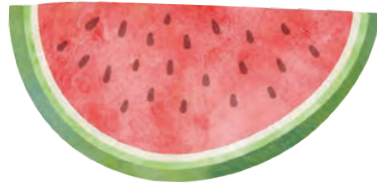
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# HELLO, AUGUST!



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Heather Gardens



**1st Tuesday of the Month**  
**3:00pm**

**Sandberg Auditorium**

## VIEW HnY ONLINE

www.heathergardens.org  
see the "Heather 'n Yon" link  
in the top menu



# HGA Board Continues Property Improvements & Prepares for 2027 Board Elections

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## Fiber optics Safety & signage Water conservation

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Outstanding progress in several key areas was announced at the Heather Gardens Association Board meeting, Tuesday, July 28, including quarterly manager reports, fiber optics, safety on the golf course, water conservation tools, and nominations for the 2027 Board elections.

**Excellent performance:** General Manager Jon Rea noted impressive performance by each HG department, with quarterly tracking via written reports by each department manager. The reports clearly state accomplishments, goals for the next three months, and budget projections. All reports are now available on the website.

**Fiber optics:** The Board continues its measured and thoughtful approach toward selecting a fiber optics provider for Heather Gardens. At their June meeting, it was discussed that Google Fiber had presented a proposal to do a feasibility study of the HG property. The Board reviewed the proposal carefully, noting that clarity was needed on some of the requirements Heather Gardens had posed. In the time ensuing, meetings were held between Google officials and Heather Gardens legal counsel. Based on the favorable outcome of meeting, the Board approved the proposal at the August meeting. Results of the study are projected to be delivered in December.

**Safety & signage:** With safety in all areas of the property of paramount concern to the Board, Rea announced that action has been taken on the issue of delivery drivers inadvertently entering the golf course paved pathways to make deliveries to residential units. Moveable signage has been created at entry ways, stating messages such as "NO ENTRY" and "AUTHORIZED PEOPLE ONLY."

Additionally, painting is in progress at some of the building parking lots, clearly marking fire zones and no parking areas.

**Water conservation:** Diligent efforts on water conservation in this summer of drought are continuing. A 20% Club lists goals for residents to use less water in their units, such as short showers instead of long baths, running the dishwasher only when it's full, among others.

**Watchdog weather stations for irrigation control:** In the area of water conservation, the Maintenance Department presented a motion to purchase two weather stations from Heritage Landscape Supply at a project cost of \$10,578.

Proper irrigation control during weather events is an important component of community-wide water conservation efforts. Weather stations not only allow

irrigation systems to be automatically shut down during rain, freezing temperatures and other weather events, they also are often required to qualify for city rebates and water conservation grants. By improving irrigation efficiency and reducing unnecessary water use, weather stations help Heather Gardens achieve its sustainability and conservation goals. This is a budgeted expense and noted as waterwise. There is no ongoing expense, such as a monthly subscription, once Heather Gardens buys the stations.

**Handheld moisture meters:** Additionally, a motion was approved to purchase two handheld moisture meters from LL Johnson Distributing at a project cost of \$3,695. It was noted that in considering issuing grants regarding water conservation, the City of Aurora looks favorably at properties having these "waterwise" tools, such as weather stations and moisture meters.

**Solar panels:** A motion from the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) was presented for revisions to the PM A -1 regarding solar panels. The revision applies only to Country Places and Townhomes and states that before submitting a solar panel application to the ACC, the resident must comply with all applicable City of Aurora requirements. Motion passed.

**Personnel policy:** The Board reviewed a policy on Heather Gardens employees providing services to residents outside employee work time. Citing the need to establish clear professional boundaries between employees and residents and to protect employees, residents and Heather Gardens Association (HGA) from liability, conflicts of interest, wage and hour disputes, safety risks, security concerns, and other legal or operational issues, and unauthorized private services or outside work performed for residents, the Board maintains its policy prohibiting this practice.

The Board explained that the policy prohibiting employees from providing outside services to residents actually was established several years ago.

**2027 Board elections:** With the 2027 elections approaching, the Board is reviewing the bylaws regarding Board qualifications in order to provide clarity to current and future Board members. As of July 28, there were six board vacancies coming up and there are three individuals who had self-nominated. Deadline to submit nominations is August 14.

**Upcoming Town Hall:** The Board reviewed the recent Town Halls and discussed topics for the next month. With new personnel on board, such as a new security manager and new Rendezvous Restaurant manager, plus hot topics of the day, there are always excellent topics available for the monthly Town Hall.

The next Heather Gardens Board meeting is slated for Tuesday, August 25, 1 pm, in the Clubhouse Board Room. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or by Zoom. A packet of information, including minutes of the last meeting, upcoming agenda, committee reports and motions to be addressed is posted to the website a day prior to the meeting. Visit [heathergardens.org](http://heathergardens.org) and click on meetings in the green bar at the top.

## HGMD Approves a New Agreement with HGA After a Multiple-Year Negotiation

After an eighteen-month process that included multiple work sessions, collaboration between the district and association boards, and the involvement of the legal counsel and the accounting firms of both boards, the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors unanimously approved the District Properties Management and Operation Agreement in a meeting on July 27, 2026.

The management agreement has been the source of much controversy between the two boards since 2023. Previous district board members decided not to renew the agreement in 2025, citing breach of contract for failure to perform, and the agreement has been temporarily extended ever since. Following a successful board recall, the newly elected district board members began working on negotiating a new agreement with the Heather Gardens Association in January 2025. All members of the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors were present in the board room for the unanimous vote in favor of approval.

At the same meeting, the board unanimously approved the 2025 audit, requesting the controller to file it with the State of Colorado on or before July 31, 2026.

Andy Anderson, Audit Manager with RubinBrown CPA, stated the audit received a clean, unmodified opinion.

## HGMD Announces Vacancy for Recording Secretary and Discusses Proposal for Golf Cart Path Repair

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors convened its regularly scheduled meeting July 23. Vice President Maria Mines chaired the meeting. President David Kennedy joined the meeting late via Zoom. All other board members were present in the board room.

Treasurer Bill Archambault reviewed the financial statements for April and May, noting that the district's three main cost centers - the golf course, restaurant, and clubhouse - are not self-supporting and will need to be subsidized by the recreation fees paid by residents. Historically, this is usually the case.

Linda Savage announced that Recording Secretary Noneen Price is stepping down from her role. Candidates for the position are encouraged to apply with Evelyn Ybarra or Jill Ross in the management office. Members of the board and the public expressed their gratitude to Price for her service to the current board and for her leadership in the recall of previous board members.

In other new business, Savage presented a proposal from Operations Manager Matt Martella for the construction of a 90-foot cart path continuation on hole number five of the golf course. The current path has been worn away. The proposal for the new concrete path is \$9,864. Archambault explained that the maintenance department must first review the proposal. Then it must be approved by the Joint Budget and Finance Committee before bringing it to the district board for approval. He expressed concern that this project is not in the 2026 budget and that there might not be enough money left in the contingency fund to cover it. Kennedy pointed out that it could be paid for with lottery funds.

### Other highlights:

The board toured the newly renovated pumphouse station on the golf course and learned how the new equipment and electrical system will help the aging PVC pipes and sprinkler heads.

The Clubhouse Committee approved a proposal for a new wall in the auditorium to be built out of Trex decking material. The cost will be under \$3,000.

The Clubhouse Committee is investigating treadmills and exercise bicycles that are more appropriate for the demographics of the Heather Gardens population. John Rea and Matt Martella are investigating repairs for the tennis courts.

Director Cecilia Williams is working with Moody's to gather the necessary information so that they may reestablish the district's credit rating, which was withdrawn due to the lawsuit filed by the former HGMD Board against the Heather Gardens Association.



Colorado Quilt created by  
HG Resident, Carolyn Morris

Photo by Janis Farrell



## HGA and HGMD Budget Development Schedule for 2027 Budget Year

| Dates                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday, May 18, 2026</b>                                                                 | Joint B&F Committee recommends 2027 Budget Development Schedule                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Tuesday, May 26, 2026</b>                                                                | HGA Board approves 2027 Budget Development Schedule                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Wednesday, June 3, 2026</b>                                                              | HGMD Board approves 2027 Budget Development Schedule                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Early June</b>                                                                           | Copy of the schedule is provided to Heather 'n Yon and Pilera for publication                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Tuesday, September 8</b>                                                                 | Management's Draft Budget and summary are provided to the Joint B&F (Budget & Finance) Committee and to the members of both the HGA and HGMD Boards. The Draft Budget will also be posted to the website.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Monday, September 21 through Thursday, September 24</b>                                  | The Joint B&F Committee conducts "Budget Workshops" to review the "Draft Budget" in detail with Management. <b>Members of both Boards and residents are encouraged to attend in person or via Zoom. During the workshops, there will be times for questions from both board members and residents.</b> At the end of the workshops, the B&F Committee will vote on any suggested changes to the "Draft Budget" and then formally recommend the "Revised Draft Budgets" to the two boards.                                                        |
| <b>Thursday, October 8</b>                                                                  | At <b>10:00 AM</b> , a special meeting of the HGMD Board will be held during a public hearing, with the public attending in person or on Zoom. After hearing and considering all comments, the HGMD Board may modify the Revised District Draft Budget prior to adopting the District's final 2027 Budget. <b>Under Colorado statutes, District Boards set their final budget, and this Budget is not subject to a vote of the community.</b>                                                                                                    |
| <b>Thursday, October 8</b>                                                                  | At <b>1:00 PM</b> , a special meeting of the HGA Board will be held during a public hearing, with the public attending in person or via Zoom. After hearing and considering all comments, the HGA Board may modify the Association Revised Draft Budget prior to adopting a recommended 2027 Association Budget to the community. <b>Under Colorado statutes, the Association budget is subject to a vote of the residents. This vote is referred to, under the statutes, as a "Veto Vote." This vote does not apply to the District budget.</b> |
| <b>Thursday, October 15</b>                                                                 | Summaries of both the Association and District budgets will be posted on the website and mailed to the residents and owners. Ballots for the Association budget Veto Vote and the election of new Association Directors will also be mailed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Tuesday, October 27 @ 6:30 PM and Wednesday, October 28 @ 10:00 AM (location to TBD)</b> | Annual Member Meetings will be held to answer questions and discuss the Budgets. These sessions are intended to be informative. <b>The opportunity for residents to ask for changes to the Budgets during the Budget Workshops (September 21-24) and the special Board meetings on October 8.</b> However, the Association Budget is still subject to the Veto Vote as indicated previously. The District Budget is set once the District Board approves their Budget on October 8, and not subject to community vote.                           |
| <b>Friday, November 20</b>                                                                  | Veto and Director Election ballots are due by the close of business ( <b>4:00 PM</b> ). A special committee will be assembled to count the ballots for both votes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Wednesday, November 25</b>                                                               | The results of the votes will be communicated to the community via Pilera and posted on the website.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Tuesday, December 15</b>                                                                 | The District must submit the 2027 mill levy to Arapahoe County.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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HEATHER GARDENS

# COMEDY SHOW

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8

5:30 - 7:00PM

HEATHER GARDENS RENDEZVOUS

Auditions are August 11\*  
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\*Comedy must be PG - Questions? Call [Cecilia @ 303-356-6519](mailto:Cecilia@303-356-6519)

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## RESEARCH ROADSHOW WAS A HIT

If you missed it, you missed out! Heather Gardens Clubhouse was abuzz on June 25 as residents swarmed the site of a Research Roadshow presented by the CU Anschutz Multidisciplinary Center on Aging, CU Cancer Center, and the Aging Strong in Heather Gardens Club.

The Roadshow was a wonderful opportunity for seniors to discover and participate in the many kinds of research projects underway at CU. There is an acute shortage of seniors who participate in research, which ultimately puts us at a disadvantage because there simply isn't enough data available to analyze senior health issues and, more importantly, develop effective treatments.

Upon approaching the Clubhouse, you couldn't miss the giant pink inflatable colon. You could stroll through the colon and see what colon cancer cells, Crohn's disease and other ailments look like inside a person's colon. There was a set of inflatable lungs where you could learn about lung diseases, allergies, and their effects on your ability to breathe.

Inside the Clubhouse auditorium a large number of tables were set up to inform and recruit people for research studies that included such diverse topics as different kinds of cancers, brain health and dementia, arthritis, fall prevention, nutrition, and lots more. Ryan the Robot directed yoga poses. And several tables were set up to focus on Veterans' health issues.

The Aging Strong table was set up in the lobby, where we explained what the club is all about, enlisted new members, answered questions and took names to schedule appointments



Photo by Janis Farrell

with residents to discuss their needs. Some of our Community Resource Partners also joined to describe the services they can provide to help seniors thrive and remain in their homes while aging or recuperating. They included Care Patrol, Innovage, At Home Healthcare, Comfort Keepers/ All Seasons Health, Aging at 5280, Aurora Rides and Amada Senior Care for Veterans.

Many thanks to those who came out for the Roadshow. Based on comments we received, people really enjoyed the experience, thought it was worthwhile, and felt like they learned a lot. The research centers recruited a significant number of seniors ready to learn more about and participate in new and ongoing research studies.

More than 235 registrants showed up. CU said it was their biggest Roadshow. This year's Roadshows were funded by a grant and we're hopeful the grant will be

see page 37

## HG Flea Market & Book Sale



Photos by Janis Farrell





## HGA Board President Report

Sue McBeth

**Happy 150th Colorado Day – August 1, 2026**

It appears to me that the hot and hazy days of July and August are taking a toll on many residents. When it's too hot to go outside and sometimes too hot to stay inside, we get cranky. We are more apt to complain about things. Many times, the people who take the brunt of our frustration with the heat are the managers and front-line employees. If something we want isn't taken care of as quickly as we think it should, we yell at people on the phone or through

emails. Our aging structures are requiring more maintenance. There are only a few staff to take care of all the issues, especially all the leaking pipes. Maintenance and Roads & Grounds have schedules that they follow. They prioritize work orders by safety concerns and structural fixes. Changing light bulbs and non-emergent plumbing requests will show up lower on the list. Please be patient with our staff, they are working very hard to take care of our community and they will work on your request as soon as possible. If you need to voice a complaint, please notify the general manager. When things aren't happening according to your wishes, step back, take a deep breath and allow yourself to think before you make that call or send that email.

### Leadership Meeting Notes:

1. A process is being developed for pre-ordering 2026 Directories.
2. A new Restaurant Manager, Sejla Sukurevic, started July 6.
3. The carpet in the fitness center will be deep-cleaned, not replaced.
4. The GM and maintenance manager are working out a new process to handle work orders.
5. Access control to our buildings is being bid out for the pilot project including Buildings 201, 213, and the Clubhouse.

### Town Hall Meeting

The focus of the July meeting was the draft Metropolitan District Properties Management & Operations Agreement. Mike Pula, Board Treasurer gave an excellent overview of the differences between the old and new Agreement. Additional resident feedback sessions were held on July 14 and 18. The two Boards met on July 20 to review the feedback and make changes to the Agreement if necessary.

Other items discussed at the meeting:

- Water usage spreadsheets have been added to the website under the tab "Water Conservation."
- Joint Long Range Planning is sending out a survey to get feedback on the most important issues for them to consider.
- Signage will be installed to stop drivers from entering the golf course cart and walking path.

### Board Meeting Actions

- The Google Access Contract for developing a fiber optic proposal for Heather Gardens was approved.
- The Water Conservation Special Recurring Committee Procedure Memorandum was approved.
- A proposal to use a new Board Member Application form failed.

Until next time, keep your cool and pray for rain!

## Calling for HGA Board Nominations

*Get Off the Bench and Join the Team.*

**If you are one of the many people who care deeply for our community and want to do all they can to improve it, this is your chance to make a difference.**

The HGA Nomination Committee is asking for anyone interested to pick up an Application for HGA Board of Directors Nomination from the Management office

**Completed forms  
due by August 14**



## A Note from the Editor

*Hello, Heather Gardens!*

*Heather 'n Yon* is delivered free to every Heather Gardens resident, but what isn't always visible is that the magazine is funded entirely through advertising. Those advertising dollars make it possible to produce each issue, pay our staff, and cover the costs of printing and delivery.

Like many local businesses, we've been navigating rising costs and the ups and downs of today's economy. To remain financially responsible, we've temporarily reduced the number of pages in recent issues, which means I haven't always been able to include all of the community content I would like.

Please know that these decisions are never personal. Each issue requires a careful balance of paid advertising, editorial content, and complimentary community space. Paid advertising and contracted editorial content must take priority, while complimentary announcements are included based on available space and cannot be guaranteed. Submission deadlines (always listed on page 30) apply equally to everyone.

I remain optimistic about the future of *Heather 'n Yon*. My focus is on continuing to grow the magazine in a way that is financially sustainable and valuable to the community. As opportunities allow, I look forward to expanding future issues and continuing to celebrate the people, organizations, and events that make Heather Gardens so unique and special.

Thank you to our advertisers, contributors, volunteers, readers, and everyone who supports the magazine. Your encouragement—and your support of the businesses that advertise in these pages—helps ensure *Heather 'n Yon* remains a publication Heather Gardens can count on for years to come.

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



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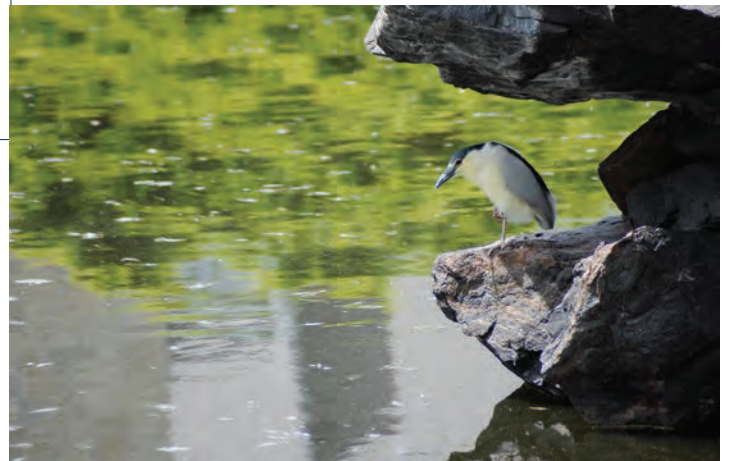
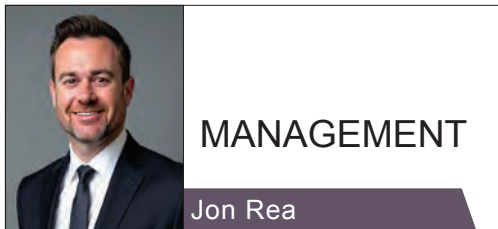


Photo by Lee Keene, B223



## **August Community Update: Planning, Progress & Community Improvements**

As we move into August, Heather Gardens continues to focus on planning for the future while improving the services and resources that support our community today. Staff continues to work on important initiatives, including financial planning, infrastructure improvements, water conservation efforts, and enhanced communication, to help ensure we are responsibly managing our community today and preparing for the future.

### **Budget Season is Underway**

Budget season is officially underway, and staff is actively working through the important planning process for 2027. Each department is developing their operating budgets while also reviewing capital reserve projects, long-term needs, and priorities to ensure we continue to maintain and enhance the Heather Gardens community. This process is an important part of responsible financial planning and helps us balance current operational needs with future investments in our facilities, infrastructure, and amenities. The work completed during this time provides the foundation for thoughtful decision-making and ensures we continue to plan responsibly for the future of our community.

### **Accounting & Audit Update**

Over the last 3 months, the accounting team has been working diligently to prepare the necessary financial information and documentation for our annual audits.

For the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District (HGMD), the team successfully completed the preparation of the 2025 financial records in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). These records were reviewed by our auditors and determined to be sufficient to meet auditing standards, resulting in an unqualified audit opinion on the 2025 year-end financial statements.

Just prior to the publishing of this article, the final audited HGMD 2025 financial statements will have been submitted to the State by the required July 31 deadline.

In addition, the accounting team completed the documentation requirements for the Heather Gardens Association (HGA) 2025 audit. A draft audited financial statement has been received and is expected to be finalized by end of July.

### **Google Fiber Update**

We are excited to share that Google Fiber is coming to Heather Gardens. The Association and Metropolitan District have executed an agreement allowing Google Fiber to design its fiber network throughout the community, for eventual implementation.

This project represents an opportunity to enhance connectivity and provide residents with additional high-speed internet options. As the project moves forward, additional information regarding timelines, construction activities, and resident impacts will be communicated as details become available.

### **Water Conservation Update**

Our water conservation efforts continue to move forward, and we remain committed to providing the community with timely information, updates, and resources throughout the summer.

We recently completed and posted our Water Conservation Usage Report, which provides a breakdown of water usage across the property and helps identify trends, opportunities, and areas where we can continue to improve our conservation efforts.

If you would like to learn more, please visit the "Water Conservation" section on the Heather Gardens website, where you can find additional resources, communications, and the latest usage report.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and participation as we work together to be responsible stewards of our community's resources.

### **Work Order Communication & Process Improvements**

Staff continue to focus on improving our work order communication and facilitation processes to provide residents with better visibility and more timely updates throughout the service request.

A simple but important opportunity for improved communication is providing a contact email address when submitting a work order. Including an email address allows residents to receive automatic status updates throughout the process, including when a work order is opened, updated, and completed.

This same process applies to area representatives (ARs) when submitting work orders on behalf of their buildings. Including an email address with the work order submission will allow ARs to receive the same updates and stay informed on the status and progress of requests they submit.

see p. 38





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## John & Crystal Guise: Helping Heather Gardens Residents Have More Fun & Make New Friends

When John and Crystal Guise moved to Heather Gardens, they came for the amenities and the fact that John wouldn't have to do yard work anymore.

But it wasn't long before they started jumping into the swing of life at HG and helping other residents to get involved, have more fun and make new friends.

Crystal currently heads the Rendezvous Restaurant Committee, and John is at the helm of the Technology Task Force.

One of the key amenities at HG is the restaurant, which has become a cornerstone of Heather Gardens as a lively gathering place. With the hiring of culinary master Chef Josh, plus new and upgraded kitchen equipment a couple of years back, the foundation was laid for big improvements in good food and good fun.

"Our goal for the Restaurant Committee is to bring in more revenue to this amenity while increasing its value and appeal to this active 55+ community, with an emphasis on 'ACTIVE,'" explains Crystal, who has been on the committee for the past four years, heading it since 2025.

"We needed more dancing and more activities to bring people out and about to enjoy a social setting. Dancing and games are elements that keep you alive as you age, and people in this community love to dance," she adds.

Rendezvous began offering dances every Friday evening, then music on the patio on Wednesday evenings, and then in winter, they introduced Trivia Night.

Trivia Night became an HG favorite, and so did Wednesdays on the patio.

"Additionally, we now have the Frolics Traveling Troupe on Tuesdays, performing a 45-minute variety show. We coupled that with Taco Tuesday, a \$5 taco special early in the day."

Trivia Night is now on Thursdays. It is very competitive and fun, drawing at least 100 people for a two-hour game.

In January 2026, Rendezvous launched a Wednesday Night Dance with a two-to three-person band. "You can dance, or some people just come out to listen over appetizers and/or

**Are you socializing as much as you used to—  
or staying home more?**

**Would you like to have more fun and  
stimulate your brain at the same time?**

**How about connecting with new friends?**

dinner. From May through September, Wednesday Nights includes service on the patio and at the outdoor pool. We got the liquor license for the restaurant extended to the outdoor pool, so people are enjoying poolside service throughout the warm weather."

The menu features weekly specials for lunch and dinner, as well as favorites such as burgers, salads, appetizers, grilled salmon, and a variety of choices. A new summer menu includes various options from Chef Josh's smoker and a monthly Gourmet Wine Dinner. Popular at Rendezvous is the Rewards Program, with a \$5 reward each time your total expenditures reach \$100.

"An option I like is that if you want less than a full meal, you can order just appetizers or items like a side salad, loaded baked potato, mac and cheese, or the burnt ends from the smoker."

Moving forward, the Restaurant Committee is marketing our Banquet Room through the Aurora Chamber of Commerce and is reaching out to golfers. Sixty percent of the individuals who use the HG Golf Course

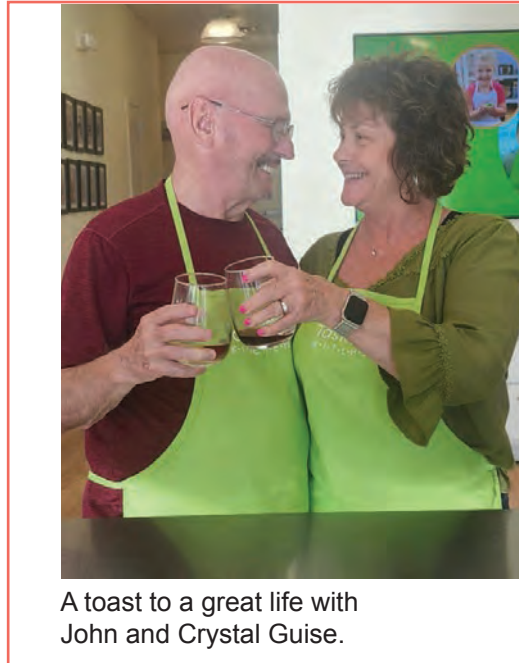
aren't residents, she notes. The committee recently sent out a Restaurant Survey, which garnered a healthy 25% response.

When it comes to communications through technology, that's what John is all about. He relates how he and the Restaurant Sub-marketing Committee were sitting in the Lodgepole Room at the Clubhouse a while back, talking about marketing the restaurant and HG communications in general.

John has a technical background, starting with his military service. He grew up in Michigan, enlisted in 1971 and served as a radio operator in Vietnam. Later, he was transferred to Fitzsimmons Army Base as part of a small group that trained Army Reserve personnel and National Guard as communications assets. He enjoyed a long career in telecom for corporations.

Crystal has lived most of her life in Aurora, with a strong background in program management for non-profits. That experience includes program management for children in a large church in Aurora.

*see page 17*



A toast to a great life with John and Crystal Guise.





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



### FOR SALE – 14091 E. Marina Dr. #103 - \$250,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1200 sq. ft. Somerset A – Wonderful remodeled ground floor unit w/a quiet location. Waterproof Shaw wood floors. Remodeled kitchen w/updated cabinets, counters & stainless-steel appliances. Remodeled baths. Enclosed lanai.



### FOR SALE – 13901 E. Marina Dr. #114 - \$260,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1290 sq. ft. Atrium A3 – Remodeled ground floor unit! Remodeled kitchen has Oak cabinets w/soft close doors, breakfast bar, pantry, custom lights & updated appliances. Extended primary bed w/walk-in closet. Updated baths.



### FOR SALE – 14050 E. Linvale Pl. #209 - \$260,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1200 sq. ft. Somerset A – Beautiful w/golf course views! Newer carpet & neutral colors. Remodeled kitchen w/updated cabinets, stone counters, tile backsplash & luxury vinyl plank floors. Walk-in Bently tub. Enclosed lanai.



### FOR SALE – 13661 E. Marina Dr. #406 - \$325,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1200 sq. ft. Somerset A – Remodeled kitchen w/stone counters, updated cabinets, pantry & can lights. Baseboards throughout. Updated baths & newer electric panel. Fully E-glass enclosed lanai w/some golf & open space views.



### FOR SALE – 2734 S. Heather Gardens Way - \$375,000

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

### Under Contract – 13931 E. Marina Dr. #612 - \$465,000

**SOLD** - 14102 E. Linvale Pl. #605 • **SOLD** - 13952 E. Marina Dr. #606

**SOLD** - 13961 E. Marina Dr. #409 • **SOLD** - 14152 E. Linvale Pl. #311 • **SOLD** - 13940 E. Linvale Pl.



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continued from page 15...

Additionally, she served close to 10 years as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, where she was a voice for children in difficult divorce and custody situations. She also served five years with Covered, a non-profit group helping women who are surviving trafficking.

On a different note, she and John owned and ran two floral shops. "We were looking for something we could do together," she explains. They owned House of Flowers in the Arts District in Aurora, later buying The Twisted Tulip in Cherry Creek. "We thought we could run both shops," she notes. "We found out right away that that was too much, so we sold House of Flowers."

When John retired in 2016, they sold The Twisted Tulip and moved to Heather Gardens, B217. They have been married 18 years. Between them, they have five adult children and 11 grandchildren, with most of the kids living in the Aurora/Denver area. "Built in babysitters, that's what we are," John adds.

But back to that day in the Lodgepole. In talking about marketing Rendezvous, they came up with the idea of Digital Bulletin Boards for the residential buildings.

John has made that one of the priorities for the Technology Task Force. "We have communications and technical opportunities in Heather Gardens. Those include more reliable internet and also the idea of presenting information, such as events and activities, on digital boards in building lobbies."



John Guise with the Digital Bulletin Board outside The Rendezvous.

Crystal notes, "We were attracted to living at Heather Gardens, because we love to travel and then come back home and enjoy all the amenities." For Crystal, that includes not having to cook. For John, it means not having to mow the lawn.



Grandsons Benji and Ollie on a mountain outing with John and Crystal.

"The guiding mission between both of us is that we want other residents at Heather Gardens to know about what's available to enjoy here, such as the restaurant, events, activities, classes and clubs, golf, and to socialize and maintain that Active 55+ lifestyle.

"We love it here," they concur.

-Patricia McLaughlin, B215

### ***Crystal & John extend many thanks to committee members!***

#### **Rendezvous Restaurant Committee Members**

Tom Merges (Finance) B242  
Gwen Alexander (Sub-Marketing) B215  
Robbie Snyder (Entertainment) B236  
Connie Burns (Sub-Marketing) B214  
Bob Geraghty (Sub-Marketing) B211  
Bob Bankirer B242  
Vickie Spillane B202

#### **Technology Task Force Members**

Paul Mauro B217  
Karen Gold B201  
Vickie Hoffman B205  
Ron Hileman B223

John is looking for volunteers for the committee and for someone to help with the Digital Bulletin Boards. If interested, contact him at **303-898-0383**, email **johnguisse1720@gmail.com**

#### **IN MEMORIAM**



Sam Pitzen B243  
William Martin, B234





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## HEATHER GARDENS FOUNDATION

The Heather Gardens Foundation provides special touches that make our community feel like home.

Have you ever rested on one of the benches around the golf course, watched geese and ducklings on the pond, watched the golfers golf, or simply enjoyed a quiet moment during your morning walk? These simple pleasures enrich our daily lives. Several of those benches exist thanks to the Heather Gardens

Foundation, which is funded entirely through voluntary, tax-deductible donations. Gifts come from individuals, memorials honoring current or former residents, donations from buildings, and estate gifts from residents who wanted to leave a lasting legacy. Every donation, regardless of size, helps preserve the peaceful beauty that makes Heather Gardens such a special place to call home. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Heather Gardens Foundation. Your generosity helps create lasting memories, comfort, and beauty for everyone who calls Heather Gardens home.

Any questions? Please call **Cecilia Williams**  
**303-356-6519** or email **Cecilia.williams@**  
**heathergardensmail.com**

### ***Tech Connections:***

#### ***Improving your phone signal strength***

A common complaint here in Heather Gardens, and justifiably so, is poor signal strength for our cell phones. One resident recently had a good experience with his carrier: T-Mobile. This individual, a member of the HG Ad-Hoc Technology Committee, contacted T-Mobile to inquire about a community-wide solution for this problem. While it was disappointing in the sense there is no cost effective community solution, the technician at T-Mobile offered to troubleshoot his phone specifically. The technician said with the 5G technology they have greater ability to help with individual phones.

After questions, then on hold while a few things were checked, then more questions, then a short hold to implement changes, the phone immediately showed improvement. It went from 1/2 bars to 2/3 bars of reception (even got 4 briefly). The technician thoughtfully followed up the next day to check if the changes "held" (which they did). The technician suggested, and this is the point of this article, that T-Mobile customers call and inquire whether or not their phone reception could be improved. If it works, this solution is a lot better than spending several hundred dollars buying a signal booster from them. Unfortunately, this only applies to T-Mobile; however, residents with other carriers could pursue the same strategy with their phones.

-Technology Task Force



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<< **3082 S Wheeling Way #404 Alpha A** 2BR/2BA 1,200 sq.ft.  
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**13500 E Cornell Ave #205 Alpha G** 2BR/2BA +Den 1,380 sq ft>>  
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<< **13609 E Cornell Ave #110 Alpha A** 2BR/2BA 1,200 sq.ft.  
Rare corner unit. Enclosed lanai with stunning views. NEW PANEL AND PAINT! **\$195,000**



**14305 E Marina Dr #B Patio Home** 2+1 BR/3BA 2,234 sq.ft.  
**\$439,000** \* HGB Seller

**3828 S Xanadu South Townhome** 3BR/4BA 2,164 sq.ft.  
**\$365,000** \*HGB Seller

**13901 E Marina Dr #211 Atrium A** 2BR/2BA 1,230 sq.ft.  
**\$249,000** \*HGB Buyer

**13991 E Marina Dr #501 Atrium M** 1BR/1BA 838 sq.ft.  
**\$205,000** \*HGB Buyer

**13902 E Marina Dr #311 Seville K** 2BR/1BA 952 sq.ft.  
**\$149,000** \*HGB Buyer



**13961 E Marina Dr #206 Atrium K2**  
2BR/1BA 1,080 sq.ft. **\$249,900**  
Under Contract in 7 days!

**14287 E Marina Dr Patio Home**  
2+1BR/3BA 1,764 sq.ft. **\$425,000**

**14233 E Marina Dr Patio Home**  
2BR/2BA 1,176 sq.ft **\$380,000**

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**3184 S Heather Gardens Way #205** 2BR/2BA 1,380 sq.ft.  
Additional living space with enclosed lanai! **\$1,895/mo.**

**13626 E. Bates Ave #402** 2BR/1BA 930 sq.ft.  
Cheery location steps to Clubhouse **\$1,595/mo.**

**3144 S. Wheeling Way #311** 2BR/1BA 930 sq.ft.  
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# HG Clubhouse Events

## Clubhouse Hours

Mon–Sat 6 am–9 pm; Sun 7 am–7 pm

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Clubhouse Assistant Manager: Donna Stein

### Active Minds – The Future of Bees

Wednesday, August 12, 2 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Found on every continent except Antarctica, bees are vital pollinators, making possible much of the food humans eat. In recent years, however, crucial bee species have experienced significant loss. Since the 1990s, the bumblebee population has plunged. Additionally, since 2006, a malady called Colony Collapse Disorder has afflicted honeybee populations. Join Active Minds as we dive into the world of bees and examine the factors that are affecting these important species. No charge, however reservations are encouraged. Register online or stop by the Activities Desk

### Music Video Bingo

Thursday, August 13, 3 pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Space fills up fast so reserve your spot soon. Join us for this Fun event! It is traditional bingo, but instead of calling numbers, the DJ plays music videos. Your bingo card is full of names of songs. You mark off the card if the song is played—great prizes and refreshments. Most importantly, this is something you do not want to miss!

Cost: \$10. Register online or stop by the Activities Desk

### Heather Gardens Clubhouse presents Soaring Again, A Live Radio Show

Sunday, August 16, 3:00pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Soaring Again, a radio show like no other, is an inspiring production based upon true stories. This show affirms it is possible to become the person you are meant to be. Written by Bernie Hupperts and starring Frolics actors, this is a do not miss event. Invite your friends and family to join in the fun. Tickets can be purchased online in Activenet or at the Clubhouse Activities desk. Ticket cost is \$10.

### Bingo

Friday, August 21, 1–3 pm, Art Room

Prizes and refreshments will be available. Join us and shout "Bingo!" when you win!

No charge. Register online or stop by the Activities Desk.

### The Sounds of Jazz

Saturday, August 22, 5:30pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Join us for songs from the Great American Songbook and a variety of Straight Ahead, BeBop, Latin Jazz and Blues. This concert, and dancing if you desire, will feature the Tina Phillips Band. Tina has traveled the adventurous jazz road for many years working with the best of the best jazz musicians. We look forward to seeing you along with your friends on this musical evening.

Tickets can be purchased online in Activenet or at the Clubhouse Activities desk. Ticket cost is \$10.

### Native American Flute and Percussion Concert

Music designed to boost spirits and energize the soul.

Saturday, August 29, 5:30pm, Sandberg Auditorium

Heather Gardens, in partnership with the Mile High Flute Circle, presents a concert featuring Kalani Das, internationally known and incredibly talented musician, music educator, music therapist, author and expert in Community Music. Kalani will entertain us with his talents in Native American

Flute, percussion and – best of all – leading audience participation so that you're not only entertained, but part of the entertainment!

Join Kalani Das for an upbeat concert of world music, friendship and fun. Purchase your ticket online in Activenet or at the Activities desk. Ticket cost is \$10.

### Folk Tales and Song from Around the World

Wednesday, August 26, 2:30pm, Sandberg Auditorium.

Join us for a vibrant afternoon of storytelling and music from around the world, where skilled storytellers and musician bring traditional folk tales to life through voice, rhythm, and sound.

This experienced ensemble of Spellbinder performers draws on a rich tapestry of cultural traditions, sharing stories passed down through generations. Interwoven with live music and song, each tale becomes an immersive experience, inviting listeners to travel across continents without leaving their seats.

Tickets can be purchased online in Activenet or at the Clubhouse Activities desk. Ticket cost is \$10.

### Heather Gardens Annual Fitness Walk & Showcase

Tuesday, September 15

Join us for a morning fall walk with other Heather Gardens fitness enthusiasts. Start the day with a fun community walk, then meet club representatives, instructors, participants, and fitness enthusiasts who enjoy the wide variety of classes and activities offered throughout our community. There is no charge for this event however it is encouraged to register in advance. Register online or at the Activities Desk, either in person or by phone, for one of three walking options:

Choose Your Walk:

- Long Walk: 2.5 miles around the perimeter
- Medium Walk: 0.75 miles
- Short Walk: 0.25 miles

### Event Details

- Free admission, registration is necessary.
- Event T-shirts: \$10 can be purchased at the Activities desk
- Long Walk Check-In: 8:30 a.m.
- Medium & Short Walk Check-In: 9:00 a.m.
- Fitness Showcase Opens: 9:30 a.m.

After you walk, you are invited to visit the Banquet Room for the Fitness Showcase featuring fitness-related demonstrations and activities. Explore new ways to stay active, healthy, and connected. Discover new ideas for building your fitness routine this fall and winter.

The fun doesn't stop there! The Rendezvous Bar & Grill is offering healthy lunch options for you and your friends beginning at 11:30 a.m.

*This Clubhouse event is sponsored by Heather Gardens Brokers.*

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you by helping you with all  
the steps!*



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## AUGUST CALENDAR: CLUBS, RECREATION & EVENTS

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sat 1</b> | Pickleball - Open Play (1st, 3rd & 5th Sat)<br>Mexican Train Dominoes (every Sat)<br>Ping Pong (every Sat)<br>Karaoke Club                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Tennis Courts<br>Arts & Crafts Room<br>Game Room<br>Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms                                                                                                                                            | 8am-12pm<br>12-3pm<br>2pm<br>3-5pm                                                                                                |
| <b>Sun 2</b> | Pickleball - Open Play (every Sun)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Tennis Courts                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 8am-12pm                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Mon 3</b> | Tennis Club (every Mon)<br>Men's Bridge (every Mon)<br>Book Club<br>Spanish Club (every Mon)<br>Texas Hold'em (every Mon)<br>Mah Jongg (every Mon)<br>Game Changers (every Mon)                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Tennis Courts<br>Skyview Room<br>Mountain View Room & Library<br>Library<br>Mountain View Room<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Skyview Room                                                                                     | 8am<br>10am-2pm<br>10:30am & 1pm<br>11am-12pm<br>12:30-5pm<br>1-4pm<br>3-5pm                                                      |
| <b>Tue 4</b> | Pickleball - Open Play (every Tues)<br>Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues)<br>HG Singers<br>Mah Jongg (every Tues)<br>Ping Pong (every Tues)<br>Tennis Club (every Tues)<br>Billiard Club (every Tues)                                                                                                                                                                                          | Tennis Courts<br>Mountain View Room<br>Skyview Room<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Game Room<br>Tennis Courts<br>Billiards Room                                                                                                | 8am-12pm<br>12-4pm<br>1-2:30pm<br>1-4pm<br>2pm<br>5-7pm<br>6:30pm                                                                 |
| <b>Wed 5</b> | Tennis Club (every Wed)<br>Ladies Golf<br>Cribbage (every Wed)<br>Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed)<br>Men's Poker (every Wed)<br>Woodshop Club<br>Rummikub (every Wed)<br>CP1<br>Ladies Billiards (every Wed)<br>Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)                                                                                                                                                | Tennis Courts<br>Golf Course<br>Sunburst Cafe<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Mountain View Room<br>Skyview Room<br>Lodgepole Lounge<br>Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms<br>Billiards Room<br>Sandberg Auditorium                        | 8am<br>8:30am<br>12:30-3pm<br>1pm<br>12:30-5pm<br>1pm<br>1-3pm<br>5:30pm<br>5:45pm<br>7-9pm                                       |
| <b>Thu 6</b> | Tai Chi (every Thurs)<br>Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs)<br>TOPS (every Thurs)<br>Fun Gals Golf (every Thurs)<br>The Green Team<br>Pickleball - Advanced (every Thurs)<br>Bunco (1st & 3rd Thurs)<br>Social Bridge (every Thurs)<br>Ping Pong (every Thurs)<br>Tennis Club (every Thurs)<br>Samba (every Thurs)<br>Kiwanis Club of Aurora (1st & 3rd Thurs)<br>Billiards 9 Ball (every Thurs) | Tennis Courts<br>Rendezvous<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Golf Course<br>Clubhouse<br>Tennis Courts<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Mountain View Room<br>Game Room<br>Tennis Courts<br>Skyview Room<br>Skyview Room<br>Billiards Room | 8-11am<br>8:30am<br>8:30-9:30am<br>9am<br>10am-12pm<br>8am-12pm<br>1-3:30pm<br>1-3:30pm<br>2pm<br>5-7pm<br>5-8:45pm<br>6pm<br>6pm |

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|               |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                   |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fri 7</b>  | Men's Golf<br>Tennis Club (every Fri)<br>Pickleball - Intermediate (every Friday)<br>Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri)<br>Texas Hold'em (every Fri) | Golf Course<br>Tennis Courts<br>Tennis Courts<br>Skyview Room<br>Mountain View Room | 7:30am<br>8am<br>8am-12pm<br>10-11am<br>12:30-5pm |
| <b>Sat 8</b>  | Breakfast Club                                                                                                                                     | Rendezvous                                                                          | 8:30am                                            |
| <b>Mon 10</b> | Aging Strong in HG                                                                                                                                 | Aspen Room                                                                          | 2:30pm                                            |
| <b>Tue 11</b> | Sevillians<br>CP2<br>Tennis Club Meeting<br>Torah Club                                                                                             | Columbine Room<br>Rendezvous<br>Rendezvous<br>TBD                                   | 5pm<br>4:30-7pm<br>5pm<br>6:30-8pm                |
| <b>Wed 12</b> | Red Hattitudes<br><b>Active Minds – The Future of Bees</b><br>Personal Protection for Seniors (2nd & 4th Wed)<br>Aviation Club                     | Rendezvous<br><b>Sandberg Auditorium</b><br>Game Room<br>Aspen Room                 | 12:30pm<br><b>2pm</b><br>3pm<br>7pm               |
| <b>Thu 13</b> | Writers Club<br><b>Music Video Bingo</b>                                                                                                           | Skyview Room<br><b>Sandberg Auditorium</b>                                          | 1pm<br><b>3pm</b>                                 |
| <b>Fri 14</b> | HG Indivisible                                                                                                                                     | Library                                                                             | 11:30-12:50pm                                     |
| <b>Sat 15</b> | Wine and Cheese Social                                                                                                                             | Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms                                                             | 3-5pm                                             |
| <b>Sun 16</b> | <b>Frolics Summer Production: "Soaring Again"</b>                                                                                                  | <b>Sandberg Auditorium</b>                                                          | <b>3pm</b>                                        |
| <b>Tue 18</b> | Caregivers Support Group                                                                                                                           | Aspen Room                                                                          | 2-4pm                                             |
| <b>Wed 19</b> | Ladies Golf Annual Club Elections & Picnic                                                                                                         | Picnic Pavilion                                                                     | 11am                                              |
| <b>Thu 20</b> | Social Justice Discussion<br>HG Republicans                                                                                                        | Blue Spruce Room<br>Arts and Crafts Room                                            | 10am-12pm<br>3-4:30pm                             |
| <b>Fri 21</b> | Men with Purpose<br><b>Bingo</b>                                                                                                                   | Skyview Room<br><b>Arts and Crafts Room</b>                                         | 10-11am<br><b>1-3pm</b>                           |
| <b>Sat 22</b> | National Federation of the Blind<br><b>Sounds of Jazz</b>                                                                                          | Mountain View Room<br><b>Sandberg Auditorium</b>                                    | 10:30am-12:30pm<br><b>5:30pm</b>                  |
| <b>Mon 24</b> | SRA Board<br>Low Vision Support Group                                                                                                              | TBD<br>Aspen Room                                                                   | 1pm<br>1:30pm                                     |
| <b>Tue 25</b> | HG Democrats                                                                                                                                       | Picnic Pavilion                                                                     | 4-5:30pm                                          |
| <b>Wed 26</b> | <b>Folk Tales and Song from Around the World</b>                                                                                                   | <b>Sandberg Auditorium</b>                                                          | <b>2:30pm</b>                                     |
| <b>Thu 27</b> | Bowling League<br>Writers Club                                                                                                                     | Art and Crafts Room<br>Skyview Room                                                 | 10am<br>1pm                                       |
| <b>Sat 29</b> | <b>Native American Flute &amp; Percussion Concert</b>                                                                                              | <b>Sandberg Auditorium</b>                                                          | <b>5:30pm</b>                                     |
| <b>Mon 31</b> | Garden Club                                                                                                                                        | Blue Spruce Room                                                                    | 6pm                                               |

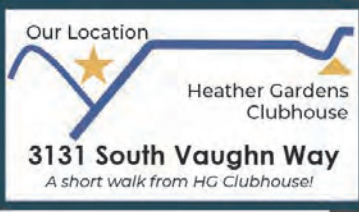
See pages 22, 30 & 34 for more information on Events, Clubs and Recreation



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## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR: CLUBS, RECREATION & EVENTS

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tue 1</b> | Pickleball - Open Play (every Tues)<br>Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues)<br>HG Singers<br>Mah Jongg (every Tues)<br>Ping Pong (every Tues)<br>Tennis Club (every Tues)<br>Billiard Club (every Tues)                                                                                                                                                                                         | Tennis Courts<br>Mountain View Room<br>Skyview Room<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Game Room<br>Tennis Courts<br>Billiards Room                                                                                                | 8am-12pm<br>12-4pm<br>1-2:30pm<br>1-4pm<br>2pm<br>5-7pm<br>6:30pm                                                                 |
| <b>Wed 2</b> | Tennis Club (every Wed)<br>Ladies Golf<br>Cribbage (every Wed)<br>Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed)<br>Men's Poker (every Wed)<br>Woodshop Club<br>Rummikub (every Wed)<br>CP1<br>Ladies Billiards (every Wed)<br>Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)                                                                                                                                               | Tennis Courts<br>Golf Course<br>Sunburst Cafe<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Mountain View Room<br>Skyview Room<br>Lodgepole Lounge<br>Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms<br>Billiards Room<br>Sandberg Auditorium                        | 8am<br>8:30am<br>12:30-3pm<br>1pm<br>12:30-5pm<br>1pm<br>1-3pm<br>5:30pm<br>5:45pm<br>7-9pm                                       |
| <b>Thu 3</b> | Tai Chi (every Thurs)<br>Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs)<br>TOPS (every Thurs)<br>Fun Gals Golf (every Thurs)<br>The Green Team<br>Pickleball - Advanced (every Thurs)<br>Bunco (1st & 3rd Thurs)<br>Social Bridge (every Thurs)<br>Ping Pong (every Thurs)<br>Tennis Club (every Thurs)<br>Samba (every Thurs)<br>Kiwanis Club of Aurora (1st & 3rd Thurs)<br>Billiard 9 Ball (every Thurs) | Tennis Courts<br>Rendezvous<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Golf Course<br>Clubhouse<br>Tennis Courts<br>Blue Spruce Room<br>Mountain View Room<br>Game Room<br>Tennis Courts<br>Skyview Room<br>Skyview Room<br>Billiards Room | 8-11am<br>8:30am<br>8:30-9:30am<br>9am<br>10am-12pm<br>8am-12pm<br>1-3:30pm<br>1-3:30pm<br>2pm<br>5-7pm<br>5-8:45pm<br>6pm<br>6pm |
| <b>Fri 4</b> | Men's Golf<br>Tennis Club (every Fri)<br>Pickleball - Intermediate (every Friday)<br>Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri)<br>Texas Hold'em (every Fri)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Golf Course<br>Tennis Courts<br>Tennis Courts<br>Skyview Room<br>Mountain View Room                                                                                                                                    | 7:30am<br>8am<br>8am-12pm<br>10-11am<br>12:30-5pm                                                                                 |
| <b>Sat 5</b> | Pickleball - Open Play (1st, 3rd & 5th Sat)<br>Mexican Train Dominoes (every Sat)<br>Ping Pong (every Sat)<br>Karaoke Club                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Tennis Courts<br>Arts & Crafts Room<br>Game Room<br>Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms                                                                                                                                            | 8am-12pm<br>12-3pm<br>2pm<br>3-5pm                                                                                                |
| <b>Sun 6</b> | Pickleball - Open Play (every Sun)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Tennis Courts                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 8am-12pm                                                                                                                          |

### Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, Aug 3: Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday by appt.), Arts & Crafts Room, 9am-12pm (see ad p. 47)  
Tues, Aug 11, Comedy Show Auditions, Banquet Room, 5:30-7:30pm (see ad p. 9)  
Thurs, Sept 10, Renewal by Anderson Lunch and Learn, Rendezvous, 12pm (see ad p. 14)

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## Letters

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

Today, property values in Heather Gardens are declining. There are a lot of units for sale and they only sell with significant price cuts. One of the reasons is our high HOA fees. Over the past decade our monthly HOA dues have exploded out of control. My fee has practically doubled. It went from \$428 a month to \$828. If it had increased at the rate of inflation, like my Social Security does, it would be \$612 rather than \$828.

Heather Garden management and the HOA board have not been able to control costs; some departments have increased by 4 or 5 times the rate of inflation. If this continues we can expect our monthly dues to double again in a few years. At that point my HOA dues will be \$20,000 a year, and who can afford that. I suggest that we freeze the budget at the present level for the next few years. This is hard to do, but it is possible. It is hard to do because a large number of residents do not vote on the proposed budget, and not voting is equivalent to voting to pass the budget. In order to veto the budget you need a majority of eligible votes, not actual voters. If you are concerned about your monthly dues, please vote on the budget

-Tom Sullivan, NTH

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

I know there is a drought this year, and I understand the management team decision to turn off the fountains. Wouldn't it be great if we can figure out a way to once again enjoy the lights and sounds of the fountains? I miss the mood the lights give and the relaxing sounds of the fountain.

Since the fountains are on well water and not part of the water restrictions, how about we run them only at night and maybe every other night for a few hours (8–11 pm). That would allow us to enjoy the lights and sounds while sitting on our lanais. I chose my condo because of the lovely location near the pond and the soothing sounds of the fountain.

Best regards,

-Jeanette Bennett, B204

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

I want to express my sincere appreciation for our building maintenance and landscape management teams at Heather Gardens. Facing Stage 1 drought restrictions is no easy task for a property our size, but our staff stepped forward immediately to lead the way and meet the challenge. I especially like the regular Pitera messages they send to keep residents informed about compliance measures they've taken and to explain the reasons behind their decisions.

It's encouraging to see that staff is already planning for the future. In a Pitera message on July 22, they explained the actions they plan to take as drought restrictions ease that will help revitalize our landscape once conditions improve. Knowing that our management team is actively looking ahead with clear plans for recovery gives me confidence in the long-term health of our community and the beautiful landscape we all enjoy.

Their positive "we're in this together" approach helps keep us informed, motivated, and positioned for a strong recovery. Thank you, HG staff, for all your hard work and for leading by example.

-Nancy Starts, B218

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

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

**Word Limit: 300**

**Please submit letters to:**

bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com

Subject line: Letter to the Editor

**Thank you!**

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## VIEW HnY ONLINE

www.heathergardens.org  
see the "Heather 'n Yon" link  
in the top menu



"Crested Butte"

Photo by Janis Farrell

## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

### **Aging Strong in Heather Gardens**

Aging Strong meets 2nd Monday of the month, 2:30 pm in the Aspen Room. Contact the club leaders by email at [agingstronghg@gmail.com](mailto:agingstronghg@gmail.com). Website: [AgingStrongHG.wixsite.com/agingstrong](http://AgingStrongHG.wixsite.com/agingstrong). If you have any questions, please call 720-772-9018. We're here to help! -Carla Wilson, Publicity Team Lead

### **Aviation Club**

The HG Aviation Club meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Aspen Room in the clubhouse. All you need to join is an interest in aviation ... you do not have to be a veteran, or a pilot or aircrew or any military, just have a keen interest in aviation. We cover civil aviation as well as military. --Rudy Morris, 720-995-0484, [rudymorris4@gmail.com](mailto:rudymorris4@gmail.com)

### **Book Club**

The Heather Gardens Women's Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month to discuss the chosen book of the Month. Book Club No.1 meets in the Library at 1:00 p.m. Book Club No 2 meets in the Mountain View Room at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to see which books each Club will be reading in 2026, a list of Clubs No. 1 and 2 Titles is in the Book Club mail slot in the clubhouse. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, call Janet Arce at (720) 774-3368 for the 10:30 a.m. group, or Joanne Urias at (251) 518-5781 for the 1:00 p.m. group.

### **The Breakfast Club**

The Breakfast Club (TBC) for Singles 50 Plus meets at 8:30 am on the second Saturday in Rendezvous Restaurant for breakfast. Call 303-794-3332 to make your reservation. Cost is \$22. TBC has grown in the past 20

years — it has three other chapters along the Front Range. We have ongoing activities, such as bowling, the Birthday Bash, eating at a new restaurant, and Happy Hour. Each month, there are also different activities planned, such as museums, sports events, plays, concerts, and day trips, to name a few. Come see! — Suzanne Harnes

### **CP1**

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

### **CP2**

We meet the second Tuesday of the month in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms from 5 - 8 pm in February and October. These are BYO drinks and a dish to share events. In April, August and December, we will be meeting in the Rendezvous from 4:30 – 7 pm. Drinks and food as well as tax and tip are at your own expense. In June, we meet in the Picnic Pavilion. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Koscove, AR Representative for CP-2, at 720-314-1584.

### **CP4**

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

### **Caregivers Support Group**

The HG Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month in the Aspen Room, from 2 – 4:00 pm. All caregivers are welcome. Questions? Call Nancy Fuhr at 303-337-4890.

### **Democrats/HG**

The Heather Gardens Democratic Club meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, usually in the auditorium, from 4 - 5:30 pm. The club stands for the Constitution, the rule of law, and GOOD GOVERNMENT. You don't have to be registered as a Democrat nor live in Heather Gardens. Our meetings are free and open to the public. On August 25, we will have our annual potluck picnic in the picnic pavilion at the usual time, 4 - 5:30 pm. This is always a fun event. Please call me or email me to let me know what you will bring. Be sure to bring enough of your dish to feed 12-15 people. In September, we will host a bi-partisan candidate forum. This will be in the auditorium from 6 - 8 pm. --Marty Karnopp, Chair. 303-353-9640, [mjkarnopp@gmail.com](mailto:mjkarnopp@gmail.com).

### **Frolics**

Coming Sunday, August 16, at 3 pm, in the Sandberg Auditorium—our first summer production, "Soaring Again," sponsored by the Heather Gardens Clubhouse. It's an inspiring production, based upon true stories, affirming it is possible to become the person you are meant to be. Purchase your ticket online or at the Clubhouse Activities desk. Tickets - \$10. For more information, contact 303-751-1811.

### **Garden Club**

The Garden Club meets the last Monday of each month at 6 pm in the Blue Spruce Room. The HG Garden Plots are in the midst of making it through an extremely hot and dry summer with restrictions on the times to water plants. Although the ambient temperature has been over 90 degrees recently, gardeners are now beginning to have a successful harvest. This

## **Heather 'n Yon Deadline\*: 8/24**

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



is because gardeners have paid special attention to keeping the soil as cool as possible with deep mulch, shade cloths, and watering early in the morning. The July meeting included a discussion about heat stress in the gardener. Headaches, dizziness, muscle cramps, confusion, slurred speech, nausea, extreme perspiring and/or very high body temperature mean the grip of a heat stroke. Gardeners were encouraged to avoid being outside in the middle of a hot day, stay more hydrated than usual, wear loose-fitting clothes in light colors and a wide sun hat, and call 911 if they or someone else becomes overheated. All interested gardeners are invited to the August 31 meeting at 6 pm in the Blue Spruce Room. For more information or to join the Garden Club email list, contact Nancy Linsenbiger, President, at cell/text 720-932-6990.

### **The Green Team**

Don't use your car, use AURORA RIDES! During these incredibly hot days, if you have your own car, when you drive it, you try to find a shaded area to park, which is difficult. If you are not lucky, you return to the car to discover a scorching hot steering wheel. Then spend a few minutes using the air conditioner to cool off while you run the engine, which uses gas. All this could be avoided by calling the free service, Aurora Rides, at 720-881-0197. The new hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 8 am - 4:30 pm and 8 am - 6:00 pm on Friday. You will arrive at your destination cool, calm, and collected while saving money and helping the environment. We meet on the first Thursday every month from 10 am to Noon in the Mountain View Room. Call (303) 587-9797 for information.- W. Pfaffhausen

### **Heather Gardens Singers**

Do you enjoy singing? Come join the HG Singers chorus where all skill levels are welcome. We rehearse in the Skyview room from 1-2:30 pm on Tuesdays. We are on our summer break. We will resume on September 15. Now is

a great time to let us know you are interested by calling the number listed below. For more details call Tom Kappel 720-377-5756.

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

High Twelve Club #11, a Masonic Club at Heather Gardens, meets every 4th Wednesday (3rd Wednesday in November and December) at Rendezvous Restaurant at 11 am. The club invites all Masons and friends to these open luncheons where there is usually a guest speaker. The club is "dark" June, July, and August. High Twelve International supports students at George Washington University in a Master's program so as to serve in public service. Members include a retired attorney, retired teachers, retired police officer, retired Air Force and Army gentlemen, and many more! The contact is Walter Martin at 303-810-6189 for more information.

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

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

### **Karaoke Club**

The club meets on the first Saturday of each month, 3 - 5 pm in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms. BYOB and snacks. We have a huge

inventory of great songs from which to choose and sing. Sing solo or with a group. For more information call Paul Spoutz, 303-564-1877.

### **Kiwanis Club of Aurora**

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

### **Lifelong Learners**

Our lifelong learning classes will resume with the fall term activities in the clubhouse. Our technology classes have been popular with the residents and include information about how to use the Heather Gardens website and other information sharing tools available in the community. Do you know how to access recordings of committee meetings or register for classes online? Are you getting important notices of activities in time to register for events? All of our classes will be listed in the Fall activities guide, which will be available in the clubhouse in September or online through the HG website.

### **Low Vision Support Group**

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

### **Meet & Schmoose**

HG Meet & Schmoose is a group of Jewish residents that meet at least quarterly. Other events are planned on an ad hoc basis. The group is primarily social and meets either in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms or the Rendezvous. We bring snacks, have speakers, celebrate holidays or just enjoy the company. Anyone can plan an event. For information contact Myra Lansky, myralansky@gmail.com.

### **Men with Purpose**

A group of men, with diversified backgrounds, gather to discuss timely

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

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

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

### **Optimist Club**

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

### **Personal Protection for Seniors**

We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 3 pm in the Game (or Ping Pong) Room, unless otherwise specified. We discuss, share, learn and practice ways to avoid attacks at our age. We are lucky to have a highly qualified martial arts instructor who is very aware of our limitations. No big kicks, punches, breaking things, or throws to the ground. Don't be intimidated, be empowered! See what you can learn. Melissa 303-332-3180 and Ditto 720-495-2067.

### **Red Hattitudes**

The Red Hattitudes continue to meet at the Rendezvous for lunch on the second Wednesday of each month, but have gone back to the old time of 12:30 p.m. The Red Hat Society is a non-political, non-

sectarian, group of ladies who like to wear purple outfits with a Red Hat or Fascinator, but remember, when it is your birthday month you reverse the color (red clothing and a purple hat). Please email Janet Arce at: arcej1946@gmail.com or call (720) 774-3368.

### **Republican / We the People Club**

August 20: Regular Meeting 3 - 4:30 pm, Arts and Crafts Room. For more information contact Wendy Hollister at whmar90@gmail.com or text at 720-446-7778.

“LIBERTY has never come from government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of it. The history of Liberty is a history of resistance.” ~Woodrow Wilson  
We are conservative-minded individuals who believe in the U.S. Constitution, practical governance, Biblical values, and the protection of life and liberty. We provide reliable resources and timely information to keep informed about events and topics affecting our community, state, and nation. We meet on the third Thursday monthly in the Arts and Crafts room from 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm. All are welcome to attend our Guest Speaker events and meetings.  
UPCOMING DATES  
August 20 - Election issues (speaker TBA)  
September 17 - Remembering our Heroes

### **Sevillians**

Sevillians Dinner, Buildings 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, and 236. The Sevillians dinner has changed to the second Tuesday of the month in the Columbine Room of the Rendezvous Restaurant at 5 pm. Please email Janet Arce at: arcej1946@gmail.com or call (720) 774-3368 if you would like to be placed on the invitation list.

### **Singles Club/OPOCS**

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

### **Social Justice Discussion**

You are invited to participate in “Unpacking the Society in Which We Live” roundtable discussion on

Thursday, August 20, 10 am -12 noon in the Blue Spruce Room. Our purpose is to effect change in behaviors through understanding, increasing our awareness, expanding our knowledge, fostering reconciliation, and sharing stories of equity or inequity; inclusion or exclusion. Stacey Brandon MSW will lead us in creating a poem: “Mirrors & Windows: Where I Am From.” Your presence and participation are valued. “Free “Equal Justice Initiative” Calendars will be available. Co-facilitators: Diane Pritchard dianekpritchard@gmail.com; Myria Giles myriagiles55@gmail.com; Renee Gillis gillisreneej@hotmail.com

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

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

### **SRA Board**

The Seville Recreational Association Board meets the fourth Monday of every month at 1 pm in a different Seville building's library. We welcome all Seville residents to attend with questions or thoughts. For time and location, please contact your AR or Seville building representative. – Questions? Call Vickie Wolfe, president, 360-589-9502.

### **TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)**

TOPS Club international has helped people release, and keep off, unwanted pounds. We're all about healthy living from the inside, out. It's a holistic approach to wellness. No fad diets. No gimmicks. No shortcuts. With us, it all comes down to accountability, unwavering support and top-tier resources. In-person meetings are at the core of what we do, and who we are, as an organization. TOPS was built on peer-to-peer gatherings. Every Thursday morning, our weight recorders are available with the scale for weigh-ins at 7:45 am, then we meet from 8:30-9:30, Blue Spruce Room. Our club members rotate to present programs, which are usually health related. Included in our club are several members who have



## CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

achieved the status of KOPS (Keep Off Pounds Sensibly) members who have met their weight loss goals. While all our current members are women, men are welcome. Guests are always welcome to visit our meetings. For further information, contact Lisa Jackson 469-323-5434 or Mljackson81@gmail.com.

### Torah Club

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

### Voice For Residents Forum

The Voice for Residents Forum is taking a hiatus, at least through September. Watch this space for further updates in the September 2026 *Heather & Yon*. To all residents of Heather Gardens, please stay involved and support your community in any way that works for you. Marilyn Macdonald, chair VFRForum. Questions, comments, please contact thevoiceforresidentsforum@gmail.com

### Wine and Cheese Social

Held every 3rd Saturday at 3-5 pm in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Room. Enjoy LIVE music with Shel and Lynn. They play your favorite tunes while you munch on goodies and have a beverage of choice. FREE FUN event with friends and neighbors on a nice Saturday afternoon!

### Woodshop Club

The Woodshop Club supports safe, responsible use of the woodshop and its equipment. The club also helps develop woodworking classes, and hands-on training. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. in the Skyview Room. Members range from beginners to experienced woodworkers. Join this club to share ideas, support new woodworking initiatives, and discover why members enjoy

working with wood—from making charcuterie boards and boxes to building furniture. For questions, contact President John Sinning at heathergardenswoodshopclub@gmail.com.

### Writers Club

Do you want to write your memoirs? Have you put poems or prose to paper? Have you thought of writing a book, but didn't think you could? Come meet with other writers at the HG Writers Club. Join us on Thursdays, 1-3 pm, Skyview Room. The club meets irregularly June-August, then back to weekly in September. Remaining summer dates are: Aug 13, Aug 27. Club contact: Barbara Creswell, 651-485-3608.

## Clubs/Organizations & Sports/Recreation

### SUBMISSIONS

300 word limit

Email: gjlesher@gmail.com

**Deadline listed on p. 30**

## Boards and Committees *Monthly Meetings*

### August 2026

SEC (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, Aug 3  
Maintenance (Zoom) – 8:30am, Tues, Aug 4  
~~Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Aug 4~~ *cancelled*  
Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Aug 5  
Communications (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Thur, Aug 6  
RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 11am, Mon, Aug 10  
Capital Program (BR/Zoom) 1pm - Mon, Aug 10  
Water Conservation (BR/Zoom) - 10:30am, Tues, Aug 11  
Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Tues, Aug 11  
Civic Affairs (BR/Zoom) - 11am, Wed, Aug 12  
Foundation (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Wed, Aug 12  
Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Fri, Aug 14  
Nominating Committee (BR/Zoom) - 11:30am, Fri, Aug 14  
Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Mon, Aug 17  
Tech Taskforce (BR/Zoom) – 2pm, Tues, Aug 18  
~~Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Aug 19~~ *cancelled*  
ACC (Zoom) – 10am Thur, Aug 20  
Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 11am, Thur, Aug 20  
**HGA Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Tues, Aug 25**  
New Resident Orientation (BR) – 10am, Wed, Aug 26  
**HGMD Board Meeting (BR/Zoom), 1pm, Thur, Aug 27**

### September 2026

Maintenance (Zoom) – 8:30am, Tues, Sept 1  
Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Sept 1  
Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Sept 2  
Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Tues, Sept 8

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

# SPORTS & RECREATION

## Billiards Club

The Billiards Club meets for Co-Ed 8 Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in BEFORE 6:10 in order to play. Billiards 9 Ball is at 6 pm on Thursdays. Annual dues of \$12.00 are payable on Jan. 1 of each year. All new players are welcome. Questions? Call Connie Burns 303-695-0766 or Shannon Boyd 719-428-9354.

Ladies Billiards Night is on Wednesdays at 5:45 pm in the Billiards Room. We will have practice and coaching in the first hour, and playing after, so we can all get better! \$1.00 nightly. Contact Melissa at 303-332-3180 or Thea at 303-522-6845 for questions.

### Co-Ed 8 Ball 6/16

1. Jack Doherty, Linda Gonzalez
2. Dee Moore, Greg Martens
3. Thea Hutcheson team

### 6/23

1. Otis Lawson, Rita Cusack
2. Mark Lawson, Shannon Boyd
3. Thea Hutcheson, Brian Bucenec

### 6/30

1. Judy Brehmer, Otis Lawson
2. Mark Lawson, Linda Gonzalez
3. Jack Doherty, Judy Hein

### 7/7

1. Greg Martens, Linda Gonzalez
2. Roger Goldstein, Judy Hein
3. Jerry VanDerkooy, Melissa Sugar

### Billiards 9 Ball

#### 6/18

1. Greg Martens
2. Jack Doherty
3. Mark Scheunamen

#### 6/25

1. Jack Doherty
2. Roger Goldstein
3. Mark Lawson

#### 7/2

1. Jack Doherty
2. John Manzanares
3. Ditto Schultz

#### 7/9

1. Greg Martens
2. Ditto Schultz
3. Scott Crowl

## Bocce Ball Club

There is one bocce court for those folks who need instruction about 34 **Heather 'n Yon**, August 2026

the game of bocce and the other court for those who want to play a game to sharpen up their bocce skills. It should be a great time to meet fellow bocce enthusiasts and make new friends. If you have any questions, please call Jake Flint (303-845-0541) or Sharon Weiss (303-263-3820).

## Bowling League

Calling all bowlers! The Heather Gardens Coed Bowling League will begin again very soon. Our organization meeting will be Thursday 10:00 a.m. August 27 in the Studio Room (formerly Art Room) of the Heather Gardens Clubhouse. We will establish teams and do a quick review for any by-law updates. We bowl with teams of three. You can form your own team or come solo, and we will get you started. All levels of bowlers are welcome! We begin league bowling the following week September 3, at Arapahoe Bowl, 6850 S Dayton St, Greenwood Village. Practice begins at 9:50 a.m. and league bowling starts at 10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there! For additional information, call Mary Jo Prichard 303-929-1241.

## Bridge/Men's Monday

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

## Bridge/Social

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

## Bunco

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

## Cribbage/Afternoon

Afternoon Cribbage meets 12:30 – 3 pm Wednesdays, in the Clubhouse Sunburst Café. For

information: Dean Lux, 303-353-4267.

## Duplicate Bridge/ACBL

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

## Game Changers

Game Changers (Game night) is held in the Skyview room from 3-5 pm every Monday. - For information: contact Lynneal Woodard, kennwood.lw@gmail.com.

## Golf Club/Ladies

July was a busy month for the Heather Gardens Ladies Golf Club. In addition to the regular weekly tournaments, there were some special competitions, the annual Battle of Gardens and the Annual Bake Sale. Despite the high temperatures that often reached 70 degrees before golfers had even teed off, participation was strong and many players enjoyed the luncheon in the Rendezvous following shotgun starts. August will be a busy month with club elections and final preparations for the club championship on September 2 and 9. Watch for results from both events in future issues of Heather n' Yon.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 19 – Annual Club Elections and Picnic
- September 2 and 9 – Club Championship
- October 21 – Year-End Banquet and Awards

### BATTLE OF THE GARDENS

The annual Battle of Gardens in which Heather Gardens players compete against the women's league at Windsor Gardens was held on July 14 and July 21. Day One play was at Windsor Gardens and Day Two play was at Heather Gardens. Our players showed off their skills and Heather Gardens was proud to retain the trophy with a score of 82 to 80. Participants included:

Karin Bentley  
Linda Boshinski



Terri Bradbury  
 Connie Burns  
 Carol Gilbert  
 Carol Gumpert  
 Marilyn Kaub  
 Jeanine Kilde  
 Cindy Koch  
 Brenda Lees  
 Debra Lipsey  
 Florence Madonna  
 Debbie Madril  
 Lisa Matthews  
 Joan McGary  
 Bev Nelson  
 Sue Robertson  
 Mary Kay Rohrer  
 Maureen Wayne

ANNUAL BAKE SALE. The Club is proud to announce that the Annual Bake Sale raised \$600 to support the Optimist International's Colorado junior golf program. Many thanks to all the club members who donated items for the sale. CLUB WEBSITE. Be sure to visit the club's Golf Genius website for helpful information, including weekly tee times and handicaps. The site also features board meeting minutes and the member handbook. Check it regularly to stay current on club news. In addition, birdie information is posted on the bulletin board outside the Pro Shop. The next HGLGC board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room. All members are encouraged to attend.

#### *Tournament Results June 24*

##### *Flight 1*

1st Beulah Gould  
 2nd Glenda Pitts  
 3rd Nancy Bonniwell  
 4th Teri Bradbury

##### *Flight 2*

1st Debbie Madril  
 2nd Cindy Koch  
 3rd Maureen Wayne  
 4th Gina Studer

##### *Flight 3*

1st Kathy Stebbins  
 2nd Flo Madonna  
 3rd Mary Jo Prichard  
 4th Linda Savage

##### *Flight 4*

1st Myra Lansky  
 2nd Jeanine Kilde  
 3rd Dee Moore

4th Suzi Stolte

#### *Low Gross Awards*

Flight 1—Debbie Conlon  
 Flight 2 – Debra Lipsey  
 Flight 3 – Marsha Swink  
 Flight 4 –Lisa Matthews

Tournament Results July 1 – This was a “Beat the Pro” event. Players whose net score beat or tied club pro Greg Kohr's score of 30, walked away with prize money. Players who beat Greg's score were:

- Charlane Plucheck
- Cindy Koch
- Trista Robrahn
- Mary Kay Mauro
- Coleen Kreft
- Glenda Pitts
- Lisa Matthews

Players who tied Greg's score were:

- Linda Hileman
- Flo Madonna
- Debbie Conlon
- Maureen McBride
- Debbie White
- Ellen Allie
- Connie Burns

#### *Tournament Results July 8*

##### *Flight 1*

1st Teri Bradbury  
 2nd Nancy Wilson  
 3rd Beulah Gould  
 4th JoAnn Fitch

##### *Flight 2*

1st Flo Madonna  
 2nd Cindy Koch  
 3rd Debbie White  
 4th Mary Kay Mauro

##### *Flight 3*

1st Debbie Smith  
 2nd Bev Nelson  
 3rd Mary Jo Prichard  
 4th Linda Hileman

##### *Flight 4*

1st Ellen Allie  
 2nd Sandy Costello  
 3rd Susan Craig  
 4th Connie Burns

#### *Low Gross Awards*

Flight 1—Charlane Plucheck  
 Flight 2 – Gina Studer  
 Flight 3 – Marsha Swink  
 Flight 4 –Myra Lansky

July 8 play also featured a special Putt-a-Palooza event with players earning winnings for the fewest number of putts in their flight. Winners were:

#### *Flight 1*

1st Liz Sanchez, Nancy Wilson  
 3rd Charlane Plucheck  
 4th JoAnn Fitch  
 5th Debbie Conlon  
 6th Teri Bradbury

#### *Flight 2*

1st Margie Francone, Marilyn Kaub  
 3rd Mary Kay Mauro  
 4th Gina Studer  
 5th Maureen Wayne  
 6th Bonnie Soman

#### *Flight 3*

1st Bev Nelson  
 2nd Linda Hileman  
 3rd Marsha Swink  
 4th Marla Cole  
 5th Linda Savage

#### *Flight 4*

1st Sue Robertson, Ellen Allie  
 3rd Dee Moore  
 4th Sandy Costello  
 5th Suzi Stolte  
 6th Connie Burns

#### *Tournament Results July 15*

##### *Flight 1*

1st Coleen Kreft  
 2nd Debbie Conlon  
 3rd Glenda Pitts  
 4th Teri Bradbury

##### *Flight 2*

1st Susan Brennan  
 2nd Maureen Wayne  
 3rd Linda Savage  
 4th Gina Studer

##### *Flight 3*

1st Debbie Smith  
 2nd Flo Madonna  
 3rd Linda Rider  
 4th Mary Jo Prichard

##### *Flight 4*

1st Myra Lansky  
 2nd Betty Adams  
 3rd Connie Burns  
 4th Ellen Allie

#### *Low Gross Awards*

Flight 1—Nancy Wilson  
 Flight 2 – Lisa Teague  
 Flight 3 – Debbie Schmeisser  
 Flight 4 –Eileen Umhoefer  
 -Communications Chair Suzi Stolte

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

We play every Friday. We'll close the season with a Fall Banquet in October. Pick up your application at the Golf Pro Shop. You may also download the application from Golf League Tracker (GLT) at [www.golfleaguetracker.com/](http://www.golfleaguetracker.com/)

## SPORTS & RECREATION

glthome/league. Send an email to jdf.hgmgl@gmail.com for login instructions. The application fee is \$50 and all applications must be turned into the Golf Pro Shop. If you have any questions, please contact the Golf Pro Shop, (303) 751-2390. - Jon Freyer, Tournament Director

### *June 26 results*

#### *E Flight*

Mike Guise  
Bill Pence  
Phil Haas

#### *D Flight*

Mike Corcoran, Bob McElfresh  
Larry Domer, Charlie Cooper  
Todd Reid, Joe DeCristofaro

#### *C Flight*

Ray Goshorn  
John Good, Chuck Marlow  
Wally Armistead, Jim Pardikes,  
Paul Zipps

#### *B Flight*

Don Schultz, Sam Thiessen, Raj  
Agrawal

Russ Smith, Craig Shockency

Martin Menard

#### *A Flight*

Ruan Copeland

Phil Hughes

Phil Marquis, Dave Rose

#### *Closest to the Hole*

#6 - Don Schultz

#8 - Sam Thiessen

### *July 3 Results*

#### *E Flight*

Steve Miedema

Jon Erion

Joe Robinson

#### *D Flight*

Cliff Creswell, Tom Merges

Mike Corcoran

Joe Rook, Dave Barch

#### *C Flight*

Chuck Marlow

Don Schultz

Charles Taylor, Eric Neel, Paul

Zipps, Tony Schierbeck

#### *B Flight*

Jeff Green, Sam Thiessen

Jim Pardikes, Raj Agrawal

Jon Freyer, Craig Shockency, Ty

Hutton

#### *A Flight*

Butch Harper

Frank Elliott

Dan Foster

#### *Closest to the Hole*

#6 - Phil Haas

#8 - Ruan Copeland

### *July 10 Results*

#### *E Flight*

Vinny Rozanskas

Michael Wayne

Richard Apt, Bill Pence, John

Guise

#### *D Flight*

Joe Rook, Tom Smith

Dave Barch

Tom Merges, Larry Domer

#### *C Flight*

Steve Webb, Eric Neel, Mark

Ethridge

Chuck Marlow, Tom Kappel

Tony Schierbeck, Pat Greer

#### *B Flight*

Jeff Green

Russ Smith

Ray Goshorn

#### *A Flight*

John Bender

Richard Barg, Frank Elliott

Chris Hughes, Casey Williams,

Pete Profera

#### *Closest to the Hole*

#6 - Russ Smith

#8 - Ray Goshorn

### *July 17 Results*

#### *E Flight*

Ernie Romero

Vinny Rozanskas

Michael Wayne, Jon Erion, Neil

Miller, George Goodell

#### *D Flight*

David Krell

Mike Meagher, Jeff Nelson

Tom Smith, Joe DeCristofaro, Phil

Corliss, Larry Domer

#### *C Flight*

Rick Honea

Mark Ethridge

Lou Sillstrop, Tom Kappel

#### *B Flight*

Ty Hutton

Ron Trujillo

Wally Armistead, Craig Shockency

#### *A Flight*

Pete Profera

Casey Williams

Fred Lowe, John Bender, Frank

Elliott

#### *Closest to the Hole*

#6 - Jim Mathews

#8 - Steve Rumbaugh

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

Also known as Tripleplay, this is a variation of Canasta. Fun and easy to learn. We meet every Tuesday, noon – 4 pm (starts 12:15 pm),

Mountain View Room. Call Linda Serio, 303-396-2218, or just show up.

### **Mah Jongg/Monday**

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

### **Mah Jongg/Tuesday**

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

### **Mexican Train Dominoes**

We play noon – 3 or 4 pm, every Saturday, Arts & Crafts Room. It's a game for everyone. –Mara Goskirk 510-333-9951.

### **Pickleball**

Pickleball is fast, fun, and social. It hooks you with quick rallies, steady improvement, and exercise that feels like play. In addition to weekly play grouped by skill level, the HG Pickleball Club holds ladder or round robin events on 2 weekends each month that end with socializing over drinks and/or a meal—because pickleball is as much about the people as it is about the play. Watch your weekly PB Update emails for event details. What we provide:

- portable nets for eight painted courts
  - loaner paddles and pickleballs
  - a welcoming community of 115+ members ready to teach rules, scoring, strategy, or just play
- AUGUST PICKLEBALL CLUB  
HOURS – (8 am-12 pm)  
ADVANCED PLAY – Thursdays,  
West Courts: faster rallies, sharper strategy, competitive fun  
INTERMEDIATE PLAY – Fridays,



## SPORTS & RECREATION

West Courts: lively, social games—may include Open or Round-Robin options

OPEN PLAY (all levels) – every Tuesday, the 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays, and every Sunday

- East Courts: Beginner through Intermediate+

- West Courts: Advanced

LESSONS – Friday at 10:30.

Preregistration with Jan Belt is required. Beginners are welcome. Wear court shoes and comfortable clothing that you can move in; we'll provide the rest.

CONTACT, INFO & MEMBERSHIP

- Jan Belt, President: 303-514-8526

- Visit <https://www.hgpickle.org>

- 2026 club dues are discounted: \$10 for residents / \$20 for nonresidents — sign-up and pay at the courts during club play.

Ready to rally? Join us on the courts – your new favorite hobby might be waiting

### Ping Pong

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

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

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

### Rummikub

A rummy-like tile game that is played in tables of four. Easy to learn, fun to play. Lodgepole Lounge on Wednesdays, 1 - 3 pm. -Rosemarie Kessler, 303-337-7005.

### Samba

Love Canasta? Try Samba—its fast-paced, strategic cousin! We play every Thursday from 5:00

– 8:45 pm in the Skyview Room. Our games start promptly at 5 pm, and we play three or four complete rounds, so participants must be able to stay for the full 3¾ hour session (or you can tag team or recruit a substitute from the bench). Samba is wonderfully fun but rule-heavy, and full attendance keeps the game running smoothly. To join the Samba Club and receive the rules and video tutorial, email [Ishileman1958@gmail.com](mailto:Ishileman1958@gmail.com). WEEKLY SIGN-UP IS REQUIRED to ensure we provide the correct materials for the number of participants.

### Square Dance

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

### Tai Chi

Experience the ancient art of Tai Chi, a graceful form of exercise that integrates mind, body, and spirit. With slow, controlled movements, Tai Chi promotes relaxation, balance, and flexibility, while reducing stress and improving overall well-being. One of the best ways to learn Tai Chi is

the step-by-step approach used by the Heather Gardens Tai Chi Club. The club meets on Thursday mornings on the clubhouse tennis courts. The club is a residents only club. Although the calendar listing in Heather 'n Yon indicates a three-hour period (from 8 - 11 am), we usually only meet for 80 - 90 minutes per session. The three-hour window allows us to adjust our starting time to account for the weather and temperature. Please contact Dean Uyeno via e-mail at [dean.uyeno@live.com](mailto:dean.uyeno@live.com) at least three days prior to your first meeting for that week's starting time and for information that will help make your first experience enjoyable and productive.

### Tennis Club

The Tennis Club meets on the second Tuesday monthly from 5:00 - 7:00 pm in the Rendezvous. There is no court play on that Tuesday. We are playing from 8 - 10 am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Since it has been getting hot even at that early hour, please be sure to bring water for hydration and slather your face and extremities with sunscreen. Keeping healthy is of major importance. So, if you would prefer to play when it's a bit cooler, join us on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5 - 7 pm. Except, on the second Tuesday, we are in the Rendezvous at that time for our monthly meeting. Please join us. For more information, call (303) 587-9797. W. Pfaffhausen

...from page 10



Photo by Janis Farrell

renewed so we can present additional opportunities for more Heather Gardens residents to participate.

The next meeting of the Aging Strong Club is Monday, August 10, at 2:30 PM in the Aspen Room at the Clubhouse. Anyone is welcome to attend. You can find out more about what we do and what we're planning.

-Submitted by Carla Wilson,  
Publicity Team Lead  
Aging Strong in Heather Gardens

For work orders submitted by phone, residents and area representatives can provide their email address directly to the work order coordinator so it can be added to the request and ensure they receive the same communication updates throughout the service process.

The simple step of providing an email address will enhance communication, increase transparency, and provide residents and area representatives with a better understanding of the status and progress of service requests.

#### **As We Move Forward**

Thank you to our residents and our community volunteers for your continued support and partnership. The improvements taking place throughout Heather Gardens are made possible through collaboration, feedback, and a shared commitment to making our community a great place to live.



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**Bible Study** (Interdenominational) on every Wednesday, 9-10 am, Mountain View Room (women); Skyview Room (men). Join a lovely group of caring women dedicated to the study of the word of God. We welcome everyone. No sign-up. Just show up. Call Charlene Cheyne, 303-341-0428.

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

**Ecumenical Bible Study.** (Formerly Six Stone Jars Catholic Bible Study), All Christian traditions: Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Other. Theme: Trust Jesus. We will begin by studying early Church history. Last bible study class was this past week and they will resume September 8, 2026. Drop in for a visit! Led by Eric Cline, D. Min., MA Biblical Exposition, 720-839-4289 or [clinecellars57@gmail.com](mailto:clinecellars57@gmail.com); also <https://www.godtalkshop.com/>

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

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

**Chapel** (Interdenominational Church Service) 11 am Sunday, Sandberg Auditorium. Pastor Bill Cheyne. We will continue the service on ZOOM for those who are unable to attend in person. Email Carolyn Morris for the link, [motoringmorris@gmail.com](mailto:motoringmorris@gmail.com). • Sunday Bible Study: 10 am, Mountain View Room.

Leader: Pastor Bill Cheyne.

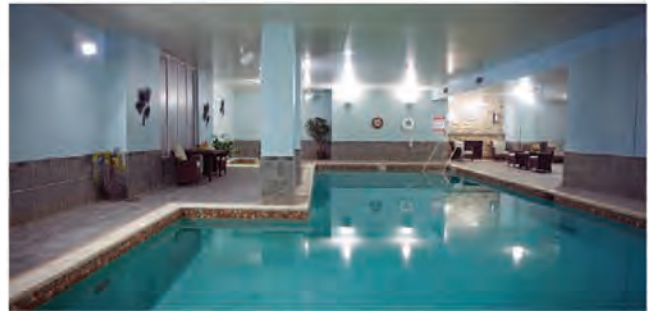
• Coffee Time: 3rd Sunday, prior to Chapel Service



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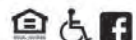
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## Maintenance Project Updates

As we proceed into summer months with water conservation fresh on everyone's mind, we feel it is important to highlight some of the completed projects the maintenance team has been working on to help achieve some of the water conservation goals set by the Association and Metro District.

The first improvement is the installation of a new pool filtration system. This system uses radio frequency technology to help aggregate microorganisms, allowing them to be more effectively captured by the filtration system. As a result, the filters require backwashing far less frequently, significantly reducing water loss.

The benefits extend beyond water conservation. Because less water is discharged, the pool requires fewer chemicals to maintain water quality and less energy in the form of natural gas and electricity to heat replacement water. Previously, the filters were backwashed approximately twice per week, sending nearly 10,000 gallons of water into the sewer system each week. With the new system, backwashing is only required once every 8 to 10 days, reducing water waste, chemical consumption, and energy use. Overall, the new filtration system has cut the facility's water consumption by approximately 50%. The second improvement is the installation of a new irrigation pump station from Watertronics for the golf course. The previous pump station relied on a single 40-horsepower pump that cycled on and off approximately every seven seconds to maintain mainline pressure, resulting in inefficient operation and increased energy consumption.

The new pump station features two 40-horsepower pumps that supply water to the irrigation system during operation, along with a dedicated 7-horsepower jockey pump that maintains mainline pressure when irrigation demand is low. This configuration significantly improves efficiency, reducing both electricity costs and waater waste.

In addition, the new pump station is equipped with butterfly valves and variable frequency drive (VFD) pumps that gradually increase and decrease water flow, eliminating the water hammer effect that occurred with the previous system. By reducing pressure surges in the aging underground piping, the new system helps prevent pipe failures and costly mainline breaks while extending the lifespan of the irrigation infrastructure.

-Matt Martella, HG Operations Manager

|                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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Old Pumpstation



New Pumpstation



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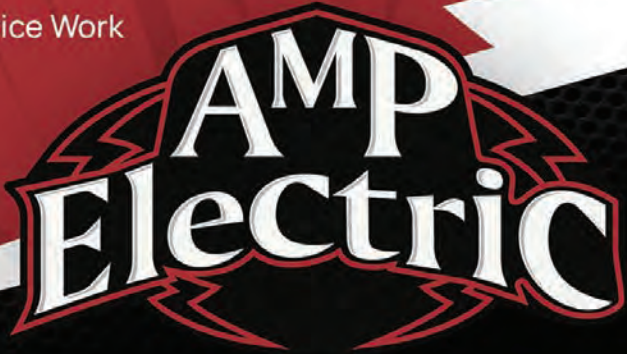
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*Publication does not imply endorsement.*





## Save our water - fix your leaking toilets!

When we hear the word "leak," we expect to see water on the floor or seeping into the surrounding drywall. Yet not all

leaks are easily visible, and sometimes not noticeable at all until serious damage is done. So it's good to get in the habit of checking our homes and surrounding areas for damp patches on carpet or walls.

Heather Gardens Maintenance Manager Richard Barowsky said most leaks in our community are due to the corrosive power of hot water in our old pipes. The age of the pipes also contributes to sewer line issues. The minimal number of leaks caused by residents can usually be traced to a faulty ice maker line or forgetting to shut off a faucet, he said.

### Leaking toilets waste water

But one leak that will not leave a drop of water on the floor or even be detectable by most residents is a leaking toilet flap. Yet leaking toilet flaps in our residences can account for 14 percent of all indoor water use, according to Aurora Water.

While the ongoing drought continues and we persevere with outdoor water restrictions and try to cut our indoor water use by 20 percent, checking for a leaking toilet flap is something every resident should do, because it's easy and it requires no sacrifice or change of behavior. Testing for a leaking toilet flap once a year will take just a few minutes out of your day.

To check your toilet for leaks, remove the top of the tank and add several drops of food coloring to the water in the tank. Replace the tank lid and wait 15 minutes; if the color shows up in the bowl, it means you have a leak.

Many leaks can be fixed with a simple flapper replacement. For those who can't or don't wish to undertake this work, an order can be placed with HG maintenance for the fix at a cost of \$60 for the service call and the cost of the flapper. Most flappers need to be replaced every three to five years.

## HG Celebrates America's 250th and Colorado's 150th Birthdays!



Photos by Janis Farrell

## FREE DAYS

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**Saturday, September 12**

720-865-5000, 10am-5pm

100 W 14th Ave. Pkwy., Denver, 80204

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

### Denver Museum of Nature & Science

**Monday, August 24**

303-370-6000, 9am-5pm

2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, 80205

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

### Denver Botanic Gardens York St. and Chatfield Farms

**Tuesday, August 25**

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

#### York St:

1007 York St., Denver, 80206

720-865-3500

9am-7pm

#### Chatfield:

8500 W Deer Creek Canyon Rd., Littleton, 80128

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## Overheard @ HG When shopping was a sport

Mary Hafka

Are you an animal lover? Good! All the best people are.

I continually polish my bona fides as a certified advocate for creatures furry and feathered. Most of the time, I wouldn't have it any other way.

But there's no denying that animals can dominate our lives in ways the lay person can't envision. Consider this: I'm taking a cruise soon.

Preparing for a cruise requires what you would expect: booking the trip and flight, renewing one's passport, getting travel insurance, updating one's luggage. Hiring a live-in concierge for the dog and cats.

What? You didn't imagine I was going to toss them in a common kennel, did you? The interview-and-background-check process for a house/pet sitter alone has added a month to travel preparations.

At last July's flea market, I got into a conversation with a vendor selling dog- and cat-themed wares. She said she owned a rabbit, causing me to recall the time I visited the Denver Dumb Friends (DDF) League, after my cat shuffled off this mortal coil.

DDF had surprisingly few cats for available adoption that day. Then I turned a corner, and stumbled into a display case containing two huge two black-and-white spotted bunnies. Brother and sister, said the placard – must be adopted together.

It was tempting, as no cat had yet caught my eye. But I remembered I still had a frisky dog at home, who might reasonably mistake these scrumptious-looking bunnies for pot roasts. In the end, I settled on adopting a black-and-white cat – a suitable compromise, I thought.

My current rescue dog is Poppy, who I wouldn't trust to not eat a rabbit either, based on her

tendency to pursue all HG bunnies that set paw on our patch. Poppy thinks most things look like food, although our family cats have trained her (mostly) to stop putting their heads in her mouth.

In July, I took Poppy on her first road trip, when an old friend whom I hadn't seen in years invited us to visit her home near Ogallala, Nebraska. She and her husband were selling their house on Lake McConaughy and downsizing, but she wanted me to see it first, as the last time I visited, it was still under construction.

These friends are conspicuous animal lovers – the husband is a retired big-animal vet. I was assured it would be fine to bring along my dog, as – due to considerations of age – they no longer had any animals.

At least that was the first story I heard. Later, my friend admitted that her husband had been feeding a stray cat, which she assured me wasn't really "theirs."

I had some misgivings about visiting a couple in their 80s who were in the midst of moving from a house they've occupied for 30 years. I should explain here that I think moving – as a traumatic experience – ranks right up there with death, taxes and going through a divorce.

But my friend downplayed the idea that she shouldn't want a house guest while she was trying to move. She turned down my offer to stay at a motel.

To me, it all seemed dubious. In addition, welcoming a dog that had never traveled before struck me as a prescription for disaster. So – naturally – we did it anyway.

Upon arrival, I couldn't help but notice that there seemed to be a number of cats prowling around. There was the stray cat my friend had insisted wasn't really theirs, but – by the time I arrived – had taken up residence in the couple's bedroom.

Then there were two more cats that greeted me outside each morning, when I walked Poppy. Those cats were feral, my friend explained, and didn't belong to anyone. This explanation held until I noticed the feral cats occupied a glassed-in

shelter under the house, which my friends erected for them.

We proceeded have a three-day visit that was half congenial and half utter chaos. My friend bounced back and forth between playing hostess and battling the builder of her house-to-be over changes she wanted him to complete before they moved.

Poppy and I returned to Denver, happy that we had made the trip. We all need the occasional change of scenery.

At last report, my friends had mostly moved into their new home, and were preparing to turn their old house over to the new owners. They were still spending nights at the old house, however, as they hadn't solved the problem of how to relocate the three cats: the one they now admit is theirs, and the two that they still say aren't, but which they recognize can't be abandoned, as the new owners might not welcome a pair of feral cats living in a palatial apartment beneath their home.

Poppy and I have been invited back to Nebraska, in a few months, to see the new house when decorating is complete. I'm guessing we'll make the trip. Poppy thinks these folks are great – sort of like indulgent grandparents who observe that everything the poppet does is clever, and every foible of the poppet is endearing.

I'd like to go again, too. I want to see who won the knock-down-drag-out fight between my friend and her builder over the color and quality of the granite in her new kitchen.

But my unstated purpose would be to verify where all those cats ended up. You know – the ones that she insisted are wild and don't belong to her?



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This unit has elegant crown molding, a large living room, formal dining area, 2 fully glass-enclosed lanais, and more! **\$329,000 >>**  
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Spacious living room and dining area. Enjoy peaceful views of the greenspace and mature trees from the lanai. **\$319,000**



**13800 E Marina Dr #510 Seville C 2BR/2BA 1,232 sq.ft.** The kitchen offers extra pantry storage, the living room benefits from an additional window. Relax and take in the beautiful mountain views. **\$285,000 >>**

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