

Heather n Yon

Heather Gardens
Community Magazine

February 2026
Vol. 39, No. 12



☪☪

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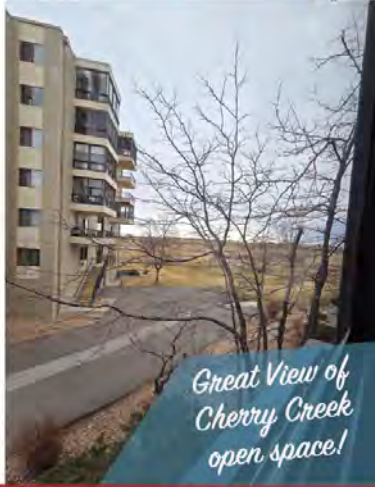
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HGA Board Enters New Year With Substantive Reports & Results

-
- Quarterly Manager Reports
 - Digital Census
 - Call for New Committee Members
-

A return to Quarterly Manager Reports, an update on the Digital Census and a call for residents to step up to become committee members, were key topics at the Heather Gardens Association Board meeting, Tuesday, January 27 at the Clubhouse.

General Manager John Rea received kudos from board members for bringing back the Quarterly Manager Reports, detailed written documents from each department manager, outlining major accomplishments, a statement of work, status and goals going forward. An important management tool for gauging progress from each vertical, the Quarterly Reports revealed impressive progress from all departments.

Enthusiastic discussion ensued about ways to relay the information to residents, including Pileria, *Heather 'n Yon* and the Heather Gardens website, with the goal of providing communication and transparency in getting the word out.

Board President Sue McBeth noted that information in the Quarterly Reports will demonstrate for residents where their HOA fees are going. "I want us to move this good news out to residents."

Director David Baxter, Chair of the Security, Emergency Preparedness, Community Resources Committee (SEC), added that he believes residents will be happy to see progress that was made in 2025, such as five roofs being replaced in one year, which is a first.

Digital Census: Director Linda Hileman, Chair of the Community Engagement & Communication Committee (CECC), updated the board on the preparation for the 2026 Digital Census. Chromebooks have been ordered for assisting residents. The Technology Subcommittee, headed by resident John Guise, is working on the project.

Extended Committee Service: A motion to extend Peter Clarendon's appointment to the Maintenance Committee for an eighth year was approved. Additionally, Director Mike Pula, Chair of the Finance Committee, noted that Ray Nash, a former board member, has accepted the offer to rejoin the Finance Committee.

Call for Residents to Make a Difference: Representing the HGMD Board, Linda Savage announced that that board has an opening created by the recent resignation of Director Steve Stratton.

Board Vice President and Chair of the Personnel Policy Committee, Larry Davila noted that there are vacancies on several HGA committees, which sparked conversation on the need for residents to volunteer and make a positive difference in our community.

Davila emphasized, "We need new blood, new people to volunteer to serve. We urge people to apply. Some committees currently have two vacancies, even with the extension of service for some individuals who already have served for many years."

While changes in the HGA Bylaws may need to be made the next time the Bylaws are up for review, the Board is considering making exceptions in the short-term in order to tackle the work load that committees face. It was noted that some committee assignments are extended, due to the individual having special expertise in the area, such as in maintenance or finance.

Lengthy discussion ensued, with candid opinions as to Board members sitting on committees, and the possibility of Board members having too much influence on specific committee decisions. A limit of two Board members maximum on a specific committee was suggested, with the Board member having no ability to second a motion made.

On the flip side of the discussion, a member of HGMD's Restaurant Committee noted that there is not a Board director assigned to that committee, stating that she sees benefit in having Board representation.

The Board moved to table the conversation until the next monthly meeting. In the meantime, Board members will examine all considerations and distribute a document with a motion prior to the March meeting.

Purchase of Security Vehicle: In revisiting the need for a new vehicle for the Security Department, the Board approved the acquisition of a 2025 Toyota Tacoma 4WD from Stapp Interstate Toyota in the amount of \$36,128.70. The purchase had been budgeted at a total \$40,000. A motion had been declined a couple months ago, where the total purchase price exceeded \$50,000.

General Manager Jon Rea explained that it wasn't solely the vehicle that had been attractive at this time but that the deal for it was advantageous for HGA. The dealership sweetened the deal by including a trade in amount for the Honda CRV. Over the past months, keeping that vehicle in operation had required thousands of dollars in repairs.

HGA Board meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is slated for Tuesday, February 24, 1 pm in the Clubhouse Board Room. Residents are encouraged to attend in person or by Zoom. The agenda, committee reports, minutes from the last meeting and upcoming motions are posted to the website prior to the meeting. Visit www.heathergardens.org.

HGMD OKs Golf Upgrades

The Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors hit the ground running in the new year, meeting twice in January. All directors were present in the boardroom for the special meeting on January 8, 2026, and the regularly scheduled meeting on January 22, 2026.

On January 8, 2026, the board unanimously approved a motion to purchase a fleet of refurbished golf carts for \$79,200 from Colorado Golf and Turf. The purchase is in the 2026 Capital Expenditures Budget.

The existing golf carts are more than twelve years old and are starting to require excessive maintenance and repairs. The new carts will come with new batteries that have five-year warranties.

The fleet of twenty-two Club Car carts will be delivered in March. Colorado Golf and Turf will purchase the old carts for a trade-in value of \$11,000, which has already been applied to the cost of the new fleet.

On January 22, 2026, the board approved the purchase and installation of a new pumphouse system from Watertronics for golf course irrigation at a cost of \$224,584. This project is also in the 2026 Capital Expenditures Budget. The installation will take place during the off-season.

According to Matt Martella, Roads and Grounds Maintenance Manager, the existing system is more than 50 years old, often breaks down, and is so outdated that repair technicians frequently do not know how to fix it.

Martella and Assistant Manager Harold Borquez conducted extensive research and received two bids for the project. They are confident in Watertronics, but because of the size of the capital expenditure, the district is legally required to solicit additional bids publicly, so an ad is currently running in *The Sentinel*. The board moved its approval contingent on not receiving a lower, acceptable bid.

In light of these two large expenditures, Treasurer Bill Archambault outlined the district's priorities for capital projects in 2026. Top priorities are the golf course pumphouse, the new golf carts, and completion of the well project, which will cost an additional \$94,500. Projects to be completed later in the year include: new siding and paint on the maintenance building; strength-training equipment; carpet in the clubhouse lobby, hallway, dining rooms, and banquet rooms; lighting at the bar; coating on the tennis courts; asphalt patching; and a greens mower. The automatic door controls may get pushed out for a year.

Archambault also reported that the district has engaged RubinBrown to conduct the 2025 audit at a preliminary cost of \$40,000. This cost could increase due to factors such as heavy accounting assistance

required to complete the audit. Linda Savage added that a group of volunteers, including herself, at the direction of Controller Carrie Toennis, has been reviewing the accounting by Community Resource Services of Colorado to keep costs down for the 2025 audit.

At the January 8, 2026, meeting, Cecilia Williams expressed grave concern about the fact that the district has lost its rating with Moody's. She explained that the district would be unable to refinance without a rating. With the board's approval, Williams will contact the district's credit analyst at Moody's to create a roadmap to regain the rating.

Other board actions taken in January:

- Approved a policy prohibiting cash disbursements outside of the accounting system, which the Heather Gardens Foundation will also adopt
- Approved a monthly billing format
- Discussed a garden project proposed by an Eagle Scout
- Approved the 2026 Annual Administrative Resolution, as prepared by legal counsel
- Approved an addendum to the Legal Services Engagement with Icenogle Seaver Pogue, P.C.

HGMD Board of Directors Discusses Process to Fill Vacancy

At a special meeting January 8, 2026, the Heather Gardens Metropolitan District Board of Directors discussed the process for identifying and interviewing candidates to fill the board vacancy left by the resignation of Steve Stratton. Stratton resigned at the board meeting December 18, 2025.

President David Kennedy presented a detailed document he had prepared that outlined qualifications for a potential director. These included financial literacy, a willingness to meet the time commitment, strong ethics and integrity, good communication skills, a collaborative mindset, pragmatic problem-solving skills, and professionalism. A lengthy discussion ensued about the distinction between essential and desirable qualifications.

Treasurer Bill Archambault stressed the importance of conducting interviews in an open meeting, and Linda Savage indicated this was her preference as well. David Kennedy and Cecilia Williams agreed to this process. Kennedy said, based on the discussion, he would work with staff to create a job description to post on Pitera.



Census 2026 “Online - On Time”

The mandatory Heather Gardens (HG) Census is back—and this year, it’ll be easier than ever!

The census starts March 1. This survey is required by law

and by our community rules (Declaration) to keep our 55+ status. Every unit must have at least one resident aged 55 or older. Completing the census is not optional, and you must provide your information “On Time” within 30 days of receiving the request.

In the past you received a paper census form inserted inside your issue of *Heather ‘n Yon*, or from your AR. The 2026 census will be different but easier than ever to complete.

What’s New in this Year’s Census: We are Going Online!

This year, the census is going online, all digital! That means no more paper forms to fill out, mail, or drop off at the Clubhouse. Instead, you’ll get your 2026 census form sent to your email address or from scanning a QR code on a nearby bulletin board. In the past, we spent over \$2,000 on printing, and our staff had to enter about 1,500 forms by hand (and yes, reading handwriting took weeks!). It’s time for an upgrade. Doing the census online will be much faster, cut down on busy work, improve accuracy, and save on printing costs. You’ll be able to access the survey by scanning a QR code on your cell phone or clicking a link from your Plera email, *Heather ‘n Yon*, or other sources. It’s a simple SurveyMonkey form you can fill out right on your phone, tablet, or computer—no paper, no hassle!

Help is Here - No Tech Skills Needed!

We know not everyone at Heather Gardens is a tech wizard and some of you don’t even have a computer or smartphone. No worries! We’ve set up a friendly help network just for you. Each building or area will have a dedicated Census Point of Contact (CPOC) or a backup, ready to answer questions and help you fill

out your census form on an electronic device, whether it’s yours or a device provided by Heather Gardens. Prefer a little hands-on help? Stop by one of our helpful Census Completion Clinics happening throughout March. Volunteers will be there with laptops to walk you through the process and make it a pleasant experience. All volunteers will be trained to assist you and will sign a confidentiality agreement. Whether you are tech-savvy or not, we’ve got your back!

Community Directory: Your Choice, Your Info!

Looking for a neighbor’s or friend’s phone number or address? The Heather Gardens Community Directory is the place to go—but only if you want to! When you fill out the 2026 online census, you’ll get to pick exactly what info (if any) you want in the Directory. Colorado law says it’s your call—nothing goes in unless you say so. Share it all, or just your email address, only your phone number, or nothing at all! It helps everyone stay connected and keeps things accurate (and far less confusing than scribbled handwriting). Directory updates have never been this easy—or this digital!

KEY DATES:

March 1: Kick Off of the 2026 Census.

QR code or link will be available to fill out the census form ONLINE

March 1-31: Census Completion Clinics to assist you.

March 31: End date to fill out the electronic census form ON TIME

Your Voice Counts!

Accurate data protects our 55+ status, property values, and eligibility for FHA/VA financing — even reverse mortgages. Remember: If a unit owner fails to complete the Census, they can be fined.

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HGA Board President Report

Sue McBeth

Happy Valentine's Day!

February is traditionally a month where we let others know how much we love them and care about them. Please take time to do this for the loved ones in your life.

This year February is also a month filled with major sporting events. The Winter Olympics are taking place in Milano Cortina, Italy, and for sports enthusiasts, this is a beautiful smorgasbord of athletic events. Enjoy watching your favorite athletes as they strive for gold. The Broncos also have the possibility of being in the Superbowl. Go Blue and Orange!

Leadership Meetings

1. Jon Rea, the General Manager, has done some realignment of the managers and their responsibilities. Check out the Organization Chart on the HG Website.
2. A process has been established by the Finance Department for HGMD so that the 2025 audit is possible. The records from CRS needed to be organized for the auditors to review invoices, payments and bank statements easily.
3. A process is in place to transfer all of HGMD's finances back to HGA. The transition started January 1, 2026.

Town Hall Meeting

At the January meeting, Matt Martella – Golf and Landscape Manager – gave a great presentation about the snow removal process and the specific parameters involved. A Piler message will soon be posted with this information.

Items raised at the meeting:

- Wendy Pfaffhausen discussed the new transportation program available to residents for free rides within Heather Gardens and a specific area of Aurora. The program is being funded by a grant obtained by Angela Lawson, our Area V representative. Please see the flyers posted around the community for more information.
- Two questions were asked about receiving more information on finances for HGA. The Board is considering having Controller Carrie Toennis present on this topic.
- A question was asked whether gutters would be placed on the upper garages for the Alpha buildings, the answer is: yes. The garages will also be painted.

Please submit any topics you would like to have discussed/presented at these meetings. Send ideas to the Town Hall email: HGAuroraTownHall@gmail.com; subject line: Town Hall Topic

Board Meeting Actions

- The Board approved the purchase of two Chromebooks/tablets for use by CECC members to help residents enter their 2026 Census information. The Census that takes place every two years will happen during the month of March. This year a big push is taking place for going "DIGITAL" with residents entering their Census information online to minimize paper forms.
- The replacement of the exterior stairs for Building 234 was approved as well as a motion to evaluate all of the exterior stairs for multistory buildings on the campus.
- Standing Committee Chairs were approved as follows:
 - o Architectural Control – John Harvey
 - o Budget and Finance – Mike Pula
 - o Civic Affairs – Lee Nicholson
 - o Community Engagement and Communications – Linda Hileman
 - o Joint Long Range Planning – Corinne Crum
 - o Maintenance – Sid Vollema
 - o Personnel Policy – Larry Davila
 - o Security Emergency Preparedness – David Baxter

In closing, please take time to let those dear to you know that they are special. Hugs all around!



HGMD Board President Report

David Kennedy

It is time again to write a President's Report and struggle for a theme or subject. As usual, it is right in my face. What was it my mother said? Ah, yes... "If it were a snake, I would be dead." She didn't like any snakes, even the harmless ones.

You are probably aware that the Heather Gardens Metro District Board of Directors has a current vacancy to fill by appointment due to the resignation of Steve Stratton. You may wonder: "Do I have what it takes to be a good board member?" Or, "I know what it takes to be a good board member and I can do it." I can tell you there isn't

one member on either board of directors that really approaches the perfect board member. The proof is evident when you ask your AI software to describe the Ideal Board member.

Ideal Board Member

Purpose: An exemplary board member is dedicated to sustaining the long-term health, safety, and value of the community by making fair, lawful, fiscally responsible, and transparent decisions.

Key Responsibilities and Competencies

1. Governance and Legal Compliance

- Consistently and fairly enforce and interpret governing documents.
- Ensure board actions adhere to state law and applicable district statutes, including open meetings and public records regulations.
- Collaborate with legal counsel on enforcement matters, covenant amendments, or contentious issues.

2. Financial Stewardship

- Oversee annual budgets for operations and capital projects.
- Maintain adequate reserves in alignment with reserve study recommendations.
- Monitor financial sources and manage expenditures judiciously.
- Approve financial audits and act upon auditor recommendations.

3. Asset and Infrastructure Management

- Prioritize preventive maintenance and capital replacement for infrastructure.
- Supervise vendor selection, contract administration, and performance assessment.
- Apply best practices in procurement and implement safeguards against conflicts of interest.

4. Risk Management and Insurance

- Secure appropriate insurance coverage and conduct regular reviews.
- Implement comprehensive safety and emergency plans.
- Address liability exposures through effective policy, maintenance, and enforcement.

5. Community Relations and Transparency

- Communicate proactively regarding budgets, meetings, project timelines, and assessment changes.
- Encourage resident engagement via town halls, surveys, and accessible feedback channels.
- Uphold transparent recordkeeping and maintain clear procedures for appeals and complaints.

6. Strategic Planning and Policy Development

- Develop multi-year capital and operational plans.
- Establish policies for rentals, architectural review, amenities usage, and commercial activity in accordance with community objectives and legal parameters.
- Monitor pertinent demographic, economic, and regulatory trends impacting community finances or services.

7. Behavioral Traits and Etiquette

- Impartiality: Utilizes objective criteria and avoids favoritism.
- Confidentiality: Respects privacy as mandated for sensitive matters.
- Patience and Resilience: Responds constructively to criticism and navigates complex processes.
- Accountability: Accepts responsibility for mistakes, adapts as necessary, and provides documentation for significant decisions.

8. Conflict of Interest and Ethics Standards

- Disclose all personal, financial, or business relationships with vendors, contractors, or service providers.
- Abstain from voting where conflicts exist, adhering to formal recusal procedures.
- Avoid leveraging the board position for personal advantage.

9. Practical Day-One Checklist for New Board Members

- Review key documents: CC&Rs, bylaws, rules, budgets, meeting minutes, reserve study, insurance policies, and contracts.

see page 44

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Heather Gardens: Rendezvous Restaurant



SPEAKERS:

Jeannette Guerrasio, MD (Concierge Medicine), Author


Loren Riddick, National Board Member, NRMLA,

Head of Reverse Mortgage at NEXA

Ryan Turbyfill, MBA, Financial Planner

Amy Lane, Consultant on Aging

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A Note from the Editor

Hello, Heather Gardens!

February greets us with a chilly days, snow-covered trees (hopefully), and—of course—the festive sparkle of red and pink hearts celebrating Valentine’s Day. The month also hosts *Random Acts of Kindness Week* (February 15–20), a reminder that even the smallest gestures can make a meaningful difference.

Research shows that performing acts of kindness can help reduce stress, anxiety, and depression. When we engage in kind actions, our brains release endorphins—our natural painkillers—boosting mood and overall well-being.

Even witnessing acts of kindness has benefits. It triggers the release of oxytocin, often called the “love hormone,” which can help lower blood pressure and support heart health. Kindness, it turns out, is good medicine.

“Open your eyes to the beauty around you. Open your mind to the wonders of life. Open your heart to those who love you, and always be true to yourself.”

— Maya Angelou

February 17 marks *Random Acts of Kindness Day*, and it offers the perfect opportunity to take a deeper dive into why kindness matters. At its core, kindness is more than simply “being nice.” It is the glue that brings us closer together—creating trust, fostering belonging, and strengthening our shared sense of humanity.

Acts of kindness don’t have to be grand. Make a meal for someone, invite a friend for coffee, smile at a stranger, listen without distraction, or offer a genuine compliment. Small actions, done with intention, can ripple outward in powerful ways.

Spreading love and kindness not only strengthens our communities—it positively impacts every dimension of human health. That sounds like a win-win.

To learn more,
visit: www.randomactsofkindness.org

-Susan Harman, Editor
Heather ‘n Yon Magazine



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Dave Marris Returns to Heather Gardens as Security Manager

Heather Gardens is pleased to welcome Dave Marris back as Security Manager. Dave's return brings a familiar presence, proven leadership, and a renewed focus on strengthening safety operations throughout the community. With a deep understanding of Heather Gardens and its unique environment, Dave is stepping into this role with a clear vision and practical goals that support both residents and staff.

Building a Stronger Security Team for the Future

One of Dave's primary objectives is the development, mentoring, and advancement of the security staff. His approach centers on coaching, leadership development, and firsthand guidance to help officers grow professionally and confidently in their roles. By fostering accountability, enhancing communication skills, and encouraging problem-solving, Dave aims to build a more capable and dependable team.

A key outcome of this effort is the creation of a solidified succession plan. By preparing officers for increased responsibility and leadership opportunities, the department will ensure continuity, stability, and long-term operational strength.

Elevating Training and Qualifications

Dave's second major focus is the development, implementation, and facilitation of a more robust, comprehensive, and standardized training and qualification program for all security officers. This program is designed to ensure consistency, preparedness, and professionalism across every shift.

Training initiatives will include, but are not limited to:

- **De-escalation training** to safely manage tense or emotionally charged situations.
- **Scenario-based training** that prepares officers for real-world incidents and decision-making.
- **First aid, CPR, and emergency response training** focused on appropriate initial response, scene safety, and coordination with emergency services during medical or safety-related events.
- **Ongoing refresher courses and evaluations** to maintain high standards and adaptability.

This structured training framework will ensure officers are not only responsive, but are well-equipped to act with confidence, care, and sound judgment.

A Reminder: *Some of What Security Does for You*

The Security Department plays a vital role in daily operations and resident support, often behind the scenes and beyond routine patrols.

Security officers assist the community in the following ways:

- **After-Hours Maintenance Coordination**
Security maintains contact with on-call maintenance staff after normal business hours, ensuring timely responses to urgent issues.
- **Over-and-Above Patrol Coverage**
Officers routinely perform additional patrols beyond standard rounds, with increased attention during evenings, weekends, and high-traffic periods.
- **Weekend Support**
Security provides an essential on-site presence during weekends when administrative offices are closed.
- **Key Control Management**
Officers assist with key control and access-related needs to help maintain building security and operational integrity.
- **After-Hours Elevator Issues**
Security responds to elevator-related concerns after hours and coordinates appropriate follow-up when needed.
- **Suspicious Activity Monitoring**
Officers are trained to identify, investigate, and respond to suspicious individuals or activity, helping maintain a safe environment for residents and guests.
- **Leaks and Maintenance-Related Incidents**
Security responds to leaks and general maintenance concerns, initiating contact with maintenance personnel and assisting until the issue is resolved.
- Security Office Phone # 303-750-9477

Moving Forward

Under Dave Marris' leadership, the Security Department will continue to evolve with an emphasis on preparedness, professionalism, and resident support. His focus on mentorship, structured training, and clear operational standards reinforces Heather Gardens' commitment to safety, service, and long-term excellence.

We are excited to welcome Dave back and look forward to the positive impact his leadership will bring to the community.



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FOR SALE – 14000 E. Linvale Pl. #310 - \$265,000

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



FOR SALE – 14152 E. Linvale Pl. #311 - \$309,000

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



FOR SALE – 13961 E. Marina Dr. #409 - \$365,000

2 bed / 2 bath 1560 sq. ft. Atrium F – Gorgeous remodeled end unit w/stunning views of golf course & mountains from 2 lanais! Luxury vinyl plank floors throughout. Updated kitchen & baths. New paint. Updated electric panel. Other updates too!



FOR SALE – 13952 E. Marina Dr. #606 - \$375,000

3 bed / 3 bath 1876 sq. ft. Seville AB – Executive unit w/wonderful views of Cherry Creek open space & mountains! 2 primary suite. Spacious living & dining room. 2 lanais. Newer windows, sliding doors & electric panel. 2 under bldg parking spaces.



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

3 bed / 3 bath 1176 sq. ft. Patio Home – New carpet & new paint. New luxury vinyl plank floors, granite counters & can lights in kitchen + updated & extra cabinets. New granite counters in upstairs baths. Finished basement. Covered patio.

Under Contract – 2734 S. Heather Gardens Way - \$415,000

SOLD – 13931 E. Marina Dr. #309 SOLD – 14390 E. Marina Dr. #204

*Heather Gardens Sales Stats For 2025

4-Story: 31 Homes Sold / Average Sales Price \$204,877 / Average Days on Market 103

6-Story: 80 Homes Sold / Average Sales Price \$284,662 / Average Days on Market 83

Patio/Townhome: 15 Homes Sold / Average Sales Price \$421,360 / Average Days on Market 64

If you would like more specific information, please email or call me.

*Based on information from MetroList, Inc. for the period of 1/1/25 to 12/31/25. NOTE: This representation is based in whole or in part on data supplied by MetroList, Inc. MetroList, Inc. does not guarantee nor is in any way responsible for its accuracy. Data maintained by MetroList, Inc. may not reflect all real estate activity in the market.



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A Valentine's Love Story

**In 1983, in a very special moment, Yvonne and Benito met for the first time.
Yet, 24 years then passed before they were to see each other again.
But, this time it would be forever**

Yvonne Guzman grew up in a tightknit family in Denver, the oldest of five children, with two sisters and two brothers. Both sisters and one brother went into law enforcement in Colorado.

In 1983, Yvonne, her mother and brother, Robert, attended the graduation of her brother, Rick, from the Denver Sheriff's Department, feeling such pride in his accomplishment. Before the event began, Rick asked a favor of Yvonne. "There's a guy over there who doesn't have anyone to pin his badge on his uniform. Will you do the honors?"



Yvonne and Benito Rodriguez

Yvonne was delighted to participate in the ceremony by pinning the handsome young graduate, Benito Rodriguez.

Benito followed up by bringing a bottle of wine to her house as a thank you. But, as Benito was launching into what would be a 39-year career with the Denver Sheriff's Department, the City and County of Denver and four years in the military, Yvonne was headed to San Antonio, Texas.

A prior visit to San Antonio had captured her heart. The rich Hispanic culture, the friendliness of the people in Texas and the warm climate were so attractive to Yvonne. It was a wonderful place to use her skills in marketing and entertainment for creating a rewarding career. "For the first several years, I was in outside sales for publishing companies, then ended up working for a cultural program for San Antonio Parks and Recreation."

She created and directed a citywide talent competition. "The Mayor and City Council members would participate, and Time Warner televised it."

Additionally, she created and directed a citywide pageant for girls aged 13-19 for "a lot of inner-city young women who wouldn't necessarily get the chance to go to charm school, to learn how to walk, how to talk with a microphone in front of an audience, and to work on their talent. We called it the Miss Recreation Pageant."

"San Antonio helped me entertain more, because when I worked for Parks and Rec, I would entertain on the River Walk. I also used to sing with a little band at Fiesta, which is a huge, two-week, citywide

celebration in San Antonio. This took place in the historical La Villita (Little Village) and Que Movida was the band. Our style was Limbo Rock, which is based on a festive Latin beat."

Yvonne put other programs together for the city, including a large Mayor's Conference in various parts of the city. She was responsible for creating and managing entertainment for the events.

After about nine years, she went into marketing the City of San Antonio with the Convention and Visitors Bureau where she was in charge of the Texas state associations. She stayed there 10 years, often collaborating with a colleague who

was working remotely in Washington, D.C. The colleague then moved to Denver. Yvonne put in her resume, and a couple years later she was hired to work with the Denver Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"That's how I ended up back in Denver and was with Convention and Visitors for around 10 years," she recalls. A driven person who always keeps on learning, she attended Metropolitan State College for two years and attended classes at the University of Colorado. "I didn't get a degree, because the creative soul in me wanted to entertain and work rather than become a fulltime student."

It was during that time that she and Benito met again. Both had been married and divorced.

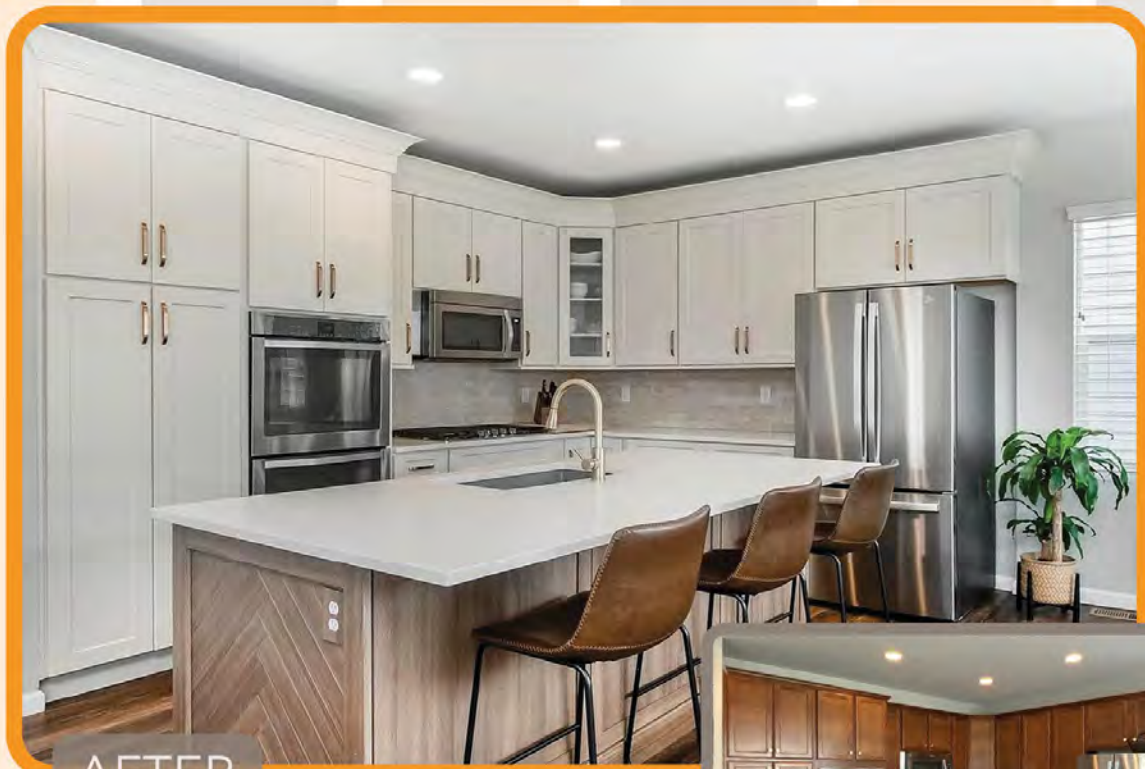
"We connected again through her sister, Shermaine, who was still with the Denver Sheriff's Department," he recalls.

Yvonne adds, "My sister said, do you remember this guy whose badge you pinned on him? Of course, I did. But it had been a long time since I had dated. She told me that you don't have to date, you could just be friends, and she invited me to come down to their workplace, ostensibly to visit her, and say hello."



Yvonne Guzman-Rodriguez

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"A couple days later, Benito asked Shermaine for my phone number. We talked for at least two hours, and he told me that if I wasn't interested to just let him know. You know, most men aren't that direct and honest. I was so impressed.

"I was in the hospitality industry, so I was on my way to Florida for a week-long conference. We talked to each other every evening while I was in Florida. Those calls gave me such insight into Benito's heart and who he is.

"He's a very beautiful person, such a gentle soul. I could see why he would be a sheriff, because he isn't a very reactive person; he could stay calm when things got volatile on the job. His philosophy was that if criminals would treat him with respect, he would treat them respectfully.

"When I got back from Florida, we had dinner, and everything just seemed to click. I had such a comfort level with him.

"I love watching him with people. He is so charismatic. When I was in San Antonio, I met a couple guys, but it just wasn't happening for me. Benito and I were meant to be together at this time in our lives." Benito remembers back to their first meeting. "I couldn't believe that this beautiful woman was the one to pin my badge. She's as gorgeous now as she was then. She hasn't changed a bit. She's always been a woman who takes good care of herself, as far as grooming, how she walks, how she dresses. She doesn't leave the house unless she is totally put together.

"When she was at that conference in Florida, we talked for a week before we decided to have dinner. She is a person who is true to herself, honest and she loves everything, every person, every animal. She has such a kind heart. She's different from any other person I've ever met. She's so responsible and thorough in everything she does."



Yvonne and Benito Rodriguez

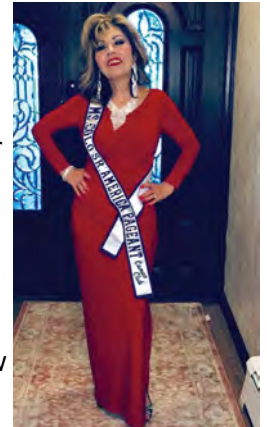


Yvonne and Benito Rodriguez

They married in 2010. Benito retired in 2014 and Yvonne in 2015.

Retirement has opened up time for Yvonne to follow her dreams of singing, dancing and acting. Benito follows his love of helping people by teaming with Yvonne to entertain on a frequent basis at community centers and senior citizen retirement homes. "She sings and I am on percussion," he notes. Benito also devotes time to golf and fishing.

Based on her pageant experience in San Antonio, Yvonne wanted to be part of the Ms. Colorado Senior America Pageant. "In order to be part of the club, the rule is that you have to compete in the pageant. I didn't want to do that at all. But, I did it."



Yvonne Guzman-Rodriguez

She didn't place, but is now in her seventh year as President of the Ms. Colorado Senior America Organization.

Additionally, she and Benito are active in Frolics and Seniors 88. Benito is in the sound booth running the soundboard, mics and music for Frolics. Yvonne is in a new role with Frolics 2026, serving as director of the new play at Heather Gardens this coming May.

Benito adds, "I'm here to make sure everything runs correctly. The main thing both of us do is that we always volunteer to help people.

"We've built a very secure relationship as husband and wife. We respect and thank each other every day for what we have. We go to church together, and as you get older, you learn to appreciate that.

"We love taking care of each other," he concludes.

-Patricia McLaughlin, B215

IN MEMORIAM

Londette (Lee) Strang CP1
Norm Tertow, B216
Virginia Walcher, Formerly B222
Dayle Winslow B234

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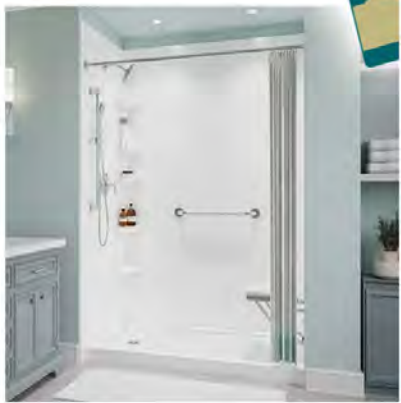
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HEATHER GARDENS BROKERS



UNDER CONTRACT
in the last 30 days

14390 E Marina #606 Somerset Executive
3BR/3BA 2,250 sq.ft.
\$459,000

3144 S Wheeling #410 Alpha AE Executive
3BR/3BA 2,145 sq.ft.

Double patios offer a panoramic look over the 8th tee.
\$359,500

13691 E Marina #301 Somerset F2
2BR/2BA 1,560 sq.ft.

Large living room flows into a dedicated dining area
\$359,000

13992 E Marina #109 Seville A
2BR/2BA 1,092 sq.ft.

Brand new LVP and paint throughout!
\$249,000

3144 S Wheeling #301 Alpha E
2BR/1BA 930 sq.ft.

Mountain views!
\$189,000

Coming Soon

13890 E Marina #509 Seville Executive A-K
3BR/3BA 2,001 sq.ft.

Don't miss this executive w/ amazing views, large primary suite
w/ dual walk-in closets and en-suite with walk in shower.

CALL FOR DETAILS!



SOLD!
in the last 30 days

13691 E Marina Somerset K 2BR/1BA 1,050 sq.ft.
\$257,500 *HGB Seller

13606 E Bates Alpha E 2BR/1BA 930 sq.ft.
\$160,000 *HGB Seller

For Lease

2750 E Marina N-Town Home 3BD/3BA 1,633 sq.ft. + BSMT
Bright end unit w/ vaulted ceiling, new carpet & 2 car garage
\$2,500/mo.

14390 E Marina Somerset C 2BR/2BA 1,344 sq.ft.
Formal dining space with LVT throughout **\$2,150/mo.**

3082 S Wheeling Alpha A 2BR/2BA 1,200 sq.ft.
Updated w/ new carpet & paint, granite counters, & enclosed lanai
\$1,840/mo.

13992 E Marina Seville B 1/BR/1BA 780 sq.ft.
Amazing views of wildlife area **\$1,795/mo.**

3082 S. Wheeling Alpha A 2BR/2BA 1,200 sq.ft. Updated w/ new
carpet & paint, granite counters, & enclosed lanai **\$1,785/mo.**

14300 E Marina Somerset K 2BD/1BA 1,050 sq.ft.
Looking for a shorter term rental? Call for details! **\$1,700/mo.**

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Photos by Janis Farrell

HG Clubhouse Events

Clubhouse Hours

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

Phone 303-751-1811, x5

Clubhouse Manager: Juanita Dominguez

Clubhouse Lead: Donna Stein (Clubhouse Sponsored Activities and Events)

Active Minds – Mount Everest

Wednesday, February 11, 2:00pm

Sandberg Auditorium

It's been nearly 10 years since a massive earthquake in Nepal triggered the deadliest avalanche in the history of Everest climbing. As the tallest mountain in the world, Everest holds a special place in the minds and hearts of many. It has religious significance for inhabitants of the region; additionally, it captivates the many mountaineers who have attempted to summit it and thus stand "on top of the world." Join Active Minds as we explore the stories of Everest—both triumphs and tragedies—and examine different perspectives on the mountain's past, present, and future.

Watch Battery Replacement

Thursday, February 19

9am-1pm, Sunburst Café

\$8.00 per battery

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

Music Video Bingo

Wednesday, February 25, 3pm

Sandberg Auditorium

Cost: \$10

Register at the Activities Desk or online. Space fills up fast. Reserve your spot soon.

Join us for this REALLY fun event!!

It's 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. Good prizes and refreshments. Most importantly, this is something you don't want to miss!

AARP Driver Safety

Thursday, March 26, 12:45pm -5:00pm

Location: Art Room

Are you a driver age 50 and over? Would you like to receive a discount on your auto insurance? This course will teach the current rules of the road, defensive driving techniques and how to operate your vehicle more safely. The class is a full 4 hour course. Participants must attend all 4 hours. Registration is required. Reserve your spot at the Clubhouse Activities desk. The cost is \$25 for AARP members payable (cash or check only) the day of class to the instructor. Please be sure to bring your driver's license and your AARP membership card.

Heather Gardens Spring Craft Fair

It's not too early to Save the Date for our annual Spring Craft Fair. Save the Dates for April 10 and 11. Vendors who have participated in past Craft Fairs will be sent registration information early February. Any new vendors are encouraged to send their name, email address and phone number to dstein@heathergardensmail.com in order to receive registration information.

Thank you,
Denver Broncos
for a fantastic season!



Broncos fans at the Rendezvous Bill Kaluza, B232

LOCAL EVENTS

Stanley Marketplace First Friday Celebration

Friday, February 6, 6-9pm

Kick off your month with an evening of arts, culture and community fun during Stanley Marketplace's First Friday celebration. The first Friday of every month, the Marketplace will host artists of all genres, from live art like poetry and spoken word to creators sharing their artwork for sale.

Stanley Marketplace businesses will also participate by offering late-night shopping hours and hosting artists in their spaces.

Stanley Marketplace
2501 N. Dallas St., Aurora.

FREE Days in February

Denver Art Museum

Sunday, February 22

720-865-5000

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

www.denverartmuseum.org

Denver Botanic Gardens

Thursday, February 12

720-865-3500

1007 York St., Denver, 80206

or 8500 W Deer Creek Canyon Road

Littleton, 80128

www.botanicgardens.org

Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Sunday, February 1 & Monday, February 9

303-370-6000, 5-10pm

2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver

www.dmns.org

Plains Conservation Center

Thursday, February 19

303-326-8380, 10am-3pm

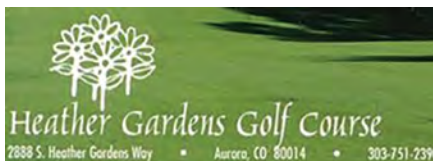
21901 E. Hampden Avenue, Aurora, 80013

Medical Foot Care

provided by the
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1st and 3rd Monday of each month
Blue Spruce Room.

Anyone who is interested may call the
main office at 303-698-6496.



HG Golf Course and Pro Shop

Fully Open and Running - (open to the public) Tee times can be made @ 303-751-2390 or online at [https://foreup-software.com/index.php/booking/20016#/tee times](https://foreup-software.com/index.php/booking/20016#/tee%20times) up to 7 days in advance for Non-Residents & up to 14 days for Heather Gardens Residents.

Play a round on Sunday and get a discounted coupon to use at the restaurant

Golf Lessons with the Golf PGA Professional (weather permitting) or by Simulator Instruction-\$60 hr 3 half hr-\$150

Simulator Rental \$30 pp (Accommodates 4 people)

Mens and Womens Golf League -Get your application at the Pro Shop and sign-up to begin play in the spring around the end of April. They like to know who's playing early on so all details can be provided to you in advance. Men play on Fridays and women play on Wednesday.

Rendezvous Bar and Grill Entertainment

Wednesday and Friday Dances

Feb 11 - Maverick Mike

Feb 13 - Yesterday's Bacon

Feb 18 - Steve Clement *NEW!*

Feb 20 - Yesterdays Bacon

Feb 25 - Mike Dixon

Feb 27 - TBD

March 4 - Biff Gore

March 6 - Yesterday's Bacon

March 11 - Mike Dixon

March 13 - Tripwire

Feb 14th - Galentines day!

Shelvis and the Roustabouts -*NEW!*

Tuesday Entertainment

Feb 17 - Frolics

Feb 24 - Game Show Night

Trivia- Every Thurs Night 5:30-7:30pm

Sunday Feb 8 - Super Bowl Party

Bar and Grill always Open to the Public

Feb 1 Begins a minimum event price at \$10

Reservations Recommended - Call 720-282-3443

Banquet Reservations

Email Kara @ kara.heflin@heathergardensmail.com



COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

Capital Reserve Projects 2026

For the 2026 Heather Gardens budget, 36 capital projects totaling \$6,382,013 have been included (see insert for the top 10 of the project list). This article gives insight into one of the planned projects and into the comprehensive approval process each project must complete before it can officially begin.

HGA 2026 CAPITAL RESERVES TOP-10 PROJECT LIST	
1 Parking Structure Maintenance PS#1	\$1,550,000
2 Final 3 Roofreplacement 6-story buildings	\$1,270,000
3 Atrium Waterproofing	\$400,000
4 First Alpha Building Roofreplacement	\$356,000
5 Contingency Projects	\$344,257
6 Concrete and Railing - Repair & Replace	\$277,179
7 Carpet replacement	\$160,000
8 Waterwise 2026	\$150,000
9 New Accounting Software	\$150,000
10 Building Exterior Paint	\$130,000

Top-10 Capital Reserve projects planned for 2026

Roof Replacement of Alpha Building

An exciting project for 2026 is replacing the roof of one of the 12 four-story Alpha buildings. Preparations are underway, with TechniScan Consultants completing a moisture survey to assess the roofs' conditions and help prioritize upcoming replacements. The first roof will be replaced in 2026, serving as a pilot for new roofing materials. This type of building has roofs with a slope, so specific materials and techniques will have to be applied that differ from those needed on the flat roofs common on the six-story buildings. The roofs of the other 11 Alpha buildings will be replaced over the next few years.

While the Heather Gardens capital reserve program is a significant financial commitment and is a major part of your monthly dues, 22.8% in 2026, all projects including these roof replacements are an essential investment for the HGA homeowners. By funding this and other key maintenance and improvement projects, our capital reserve programs help ensure that our property values stay strong and Heather Gardens will continue to thrive. Ultimately, this proactive approach protects each owner's investment and contributes to a vibrant, well-maintained neighborhood.

Budget Cycle

Each year in August the Capital Programs



Building 208: One of the Alpha buildings where the roof will be replaced.

Subcommittee drafts, with staff input, a list of proposed capital reserve projects and budget estimates. During the Budget Workshop meetings in September the proposal for next year's projects is finalized. The HGA board and later the members of the Heather Gardens Homeowners Association approve the annual budget in November—including the capital reserve budget. The roof replacement for the selected Alpha building is one of the projects included in the 2026 annual budget where \$356,000 is earmarked for this project. The results from the TechniScan Consultants report will help select which of the 12 Alpha buildings roof is selected for replacement this year.

Project Planning and Approval Process

During the coming year, the Maintenance and Budget & Finance Committees will review major capital projects. Each committee makes recommendations to the board based on their committee's expertise and responsibilities. During this process, our staff does the heavy lifting and prepares project plans, manages proposals, and evaluates the vendors' bids. The recommendations then go to the board for final approval.

The approval process to replace the roof on the first Alpha building will start soon. Staff will prepare and send out the RFPs (requests for proposals) and review the resulting bids. After the top-ranked vendor is chosen, the decision and rationale are documented, and negotiations completed, the recommendations prepared by the Maintenance and Budget & Finance Committees will be sent to the board for approval to start the project.

Transparency and Resident Engagement

Our capital reserve budget planning and the approval process is completely transparent. This transparency is achieved by sharing clear reports, meeting openly, and explaining how decisions are made. But transparency only really works when residents get involved, by reading updates, showing up, and speaking out. When more residents engage, the community's long term plans and financial choices better match what owners want and need.

Meetings of the Board, Capital Reserves Committee, Budget and Finance Committee and the Maintenance Committee are open to the public. Meeting dates/times, agendas and notes are posted on the Heather Gardens website, and available to all residents.

Capital Reserves 101

Think of HGA's capital reserve fund like a community savings account. Just as families set aside money for big expenses like a new roof or car repairs, the HOA collects reserve funds to pay for major repairs and improvements. This "savings account" ensures we're ready for unexpected costs and plan-ned upgrades, helping avoid surprise assessments for residents. It's a smart way to plan ahead together.

-Community Engagement and Communications Committee / Project Insight

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR: CLUBS, RECREATION & EVENTS

Sun 1	Pickleball - Open Play (every Sun)	Tennis Courts	10am-1pm
Mon 2	Men's Bridge (every Mon) Book Club Spanish Club (every Mon) Texas Hold'em (every Mon) Tennis Club (every Mon) Mah Jongg (every Mon) Aging Strong in HG Game Changers (every Mon)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room & Library Library Mountain View Room Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Aspen Room Skyview Room	10am-2pm 10:30am & 1pm 11am-12pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1-4pm 2:30pm 3-5pm
Tue 3	Pickleball - Open Play (every Tues) Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues) HG Singers (every Tues) Mah Jongg (every Tues) Ping Pong (every Tues) Sevellians Billiards Club (every Tues)	Tennis Courts Mountain View Room Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Banquet Room Billiards Room	10am-1pm 12-4pm 1-2:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 5pm 6:30pm
Wed 4	Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Woodshop Club Tennis Club (every Wed) Rummikub CP1 Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	Sunburst Cafe Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Tennis Courts Lodgepole Lounge Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Sandberg Auditorium	12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1pm 1pm 1-3pm 5:30pm 7-9pm
Thu 5	Tai Chi (every Thurs) Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs) TOPS (every Thurs) Bowling League (every Thurs) The Green Team Pickleball - Advanced (every Thurs) Writers Club (every Thurs) Bunco (1st & 3rd Thurs) Social Bridge (every Thurs) Ping Pong (every Thurs) Kiwanis Club of Aurora (1st & 3rd Thurs) Men's Billiards (every Thurs)	Tennis Courts Rendezvous Bar & Grill Blue Spruce Room Arapahoe Bowl Skyview Room Tennis Courts Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Game Room Skyview Room Billiards Room	8-11am 8:30am 8:30-9:30am 10am 10am 10am-1pm 1-3pm 1-3:30pm 1-3:30pm 2pm 6pm 7pm
Fri 6	Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri) Pickleball - Intermediate (every Friday) Texas Hold'em (every Fri) Tennis Club (every Fri)	Skyview Room Tennis Courts Mountain View Room Tennis Courts	10-11am 10am-1pm 12:30-5pm 1pm

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Sat 7	Pickleball - Open Play (every Sat) Mexican Train Dominoes (every Sat) Ping Pong (every Sat) Tennis Club Karaoke Club	Tennis Courts Arts & Crafts Room Game Room Tennis Courts Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	10am-1pm 12-3pm 2pm 2pm 3-5pm
Tue 10	CP2 Torah Club (2nd & 4th Tues)	Rendezvous Bar & Grill TBD	2-4pm 6:30-8pm
Wed 11	Red Hattitudes Active Minds – Mount Everest Personal Protection for Seniors (2nd & 4th Wed) Aviation Club	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Sandberg Auditorium Game Room Aspen Room	12:30pm 2pm 3pm 7pm
Fri 13	Indivisible HG	Library	11:30am-12:50pm
Sat 14	The Breakfast Club Voice for Residents Forum	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Mountain View Room	8:30am 3-4:30pm
Mon 16	<i>President's Day - HG Management Office Closed</i>		
Tue 17	Caregivers Support Group Frolics "Notes of Love and Laughter"	Mountain View Room Rendezvous Bar & Grill	2-4pm 4pm
Wed 18	Republican Club Guest Speaker	Rendezvous Bar & Grill	3-4:30pm
Thu 19	Watch Battery Replacement Social Justice Discussion We the People Club	Sunburst Cafe Blue Spruce Room Arts & Crafts Room	9am-1pm 10am-12pm 3-4:30pm
Sat 21	Saturday Afternoon LIVE Social	Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms	3-5pm
Mon 23	Low Vision Support Group	Aspen Room	1:30pm
Tue 24	HG Democrats	Sandberg Auditorium	4-5:30pm
Wed 25	High Twelve Club #11 Masonic Club Music Video Bingo	Rendezvous Bar & Grill Sandberg Auditorium	11am 3pm
Sat 28	National Federation of the Blind	Mountain View Room	10:30am-12:30pm

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

Advertised Activities and Seminars

Mon, Feb 2: Bayer Ear Clinic (every Monday by appt.), Arts & Crafts Room, 9am-12pm (see ad p. 55)
Wed, Feb 11: Wine Tasting 101, HG Clubhouse, 5:30pm (see ad p. 13)

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MARCH CALENDAR: CLUBS, RECREATION & EVENTS

Sun 1	Pickleball - Open Play (every Sun)	Tennis Courts	10am-1pm
Mon 2	Men's Bridge (every Mon) Book Club Spanish Club (every Mon) Texas Hold'em (every Mon) Tennis Club (every Mon) Mah Jongg (every Mon) Aging Strong in HG Game Changers (every Mon)	Skyview Room Mountain View Room & Library Library Mountain View Room Tennis Courts Blue Spruce Room Aspen Room Skyview Room	10am-2pm 10:30am & 1pm 11am-12pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1-4pm 2:30pm 3-5pm
Tue 3	Pickleball - Open Play (every Tues) Hand (Knee) and Foot (every Tues) HG Singers (every Tues) Mah Jongg (every Tues) Ping Pong (every Tues) Sevellians Billiards Club (every Tues)	Tennis Courts Mountain View Room Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Game Room Banquet Room Billiards Room	10am-1pm 12-4pm 1-2:30pm 1-4pm 2pm 5pm 6:30pm
Wed 4	Cribbage (every Wed) Men's Poker (every Wed) Duplicate Bridge/ACBL (every Wed) Woodshop Club Tennis Club (every Wed) Rummikub CP1 Square Dance (1st & 3rd Wed)	Sunburst Cafe Mountain View Room Blue Spruce Room Skyview Room Tennis Courts Lodgepole Lounge Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms Sandberg Auditorium	12:30-3pm 12:30-5pm 1pm 1pm 1pm 1-3pm 5:30pm 7-9pm
Thu 5	Tai Chi (every Thurs) Optimist Club (1st & 3rd Thurs) TOPS (every Thurs) Bowling League (every Thurs) The Green Team Pickleball - Advanced (every Thurs) Writers Club (every Thurs) Bunco (1st & 3rd Thurs) Social Bridge (every Thurs) Ping Pong (every Thurs) Kiwanis Club of Aurora (1st & 3rd Thurs) Men's Billiards (every Thurs)	Tennis Courts Rendezvous Bar & Grill Blue Spruce Room Arapahoe Bowl Skyview Room Tennis Courts Skyview Room Blue Spruce Room Mountain View Room Game Room Skyview Room Billiards Room	8-11am 8:30am 8:30-9:30am 10am 10am 10am-1pm 1-3pm 1-3:30pm 1-3:30pm 2pm 6pm 7pm
Fri 6	Men with Purpose (1st & 3rd Fri) Pickleball - Intermediate (every Friday) Texas Hold'em (every Fri) Tennis Club (every Fri)	Skyview Room Tennis Courts Mountain View Room Tennis Courts	10-11am 10am-1pm 12:30-5pm 1pm

**Board and Committee
Meetings - see p. 46**

**Religious Service
Information- see p. 44**

Heather 'n Yon
Deadline*: 2/23

SUBMIT TO:

bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com
*Please note: any submissions after
deadline may not be included in the
upcoming issue of Heather 'n Yon

Letters

Heather 'n Yon,

I wish to convey my heartfelt THANK YOU to the two Heather Gardens Security Guards who rescued our Christmas Luncheon about 10:30 on Christmas morning!

We host Christmas Dinner in the Atrium for neighbors and family who wish to share the day with each other. As I was preparing for the lunch, and making coffee and two other hot beverages, I unknowingly plugged too many coffee pots into one outlet and tripped the electrical breaker. The power and lights went out in our entryway, card room and mail room. However, within 10 minutes of calling Heather Gardens Security, two kind gentlemen showed up and knew exactly what to do to restore the power. They literally 'saved the day' and the Christmas Party for over 50 guests.

I so appreciate these two men who came as soon as we called and within a few minutes solved the problem. Thanks to their immediate response and expertise, we were inconvenienced for only a short time, and I learned a valuable lesson... only one coffee pot per electrical outlet!

With sincere appreciation,
-Susan Taylor, B242

Heather 'n Yon,

\$1 Million. Do you know Heather Gardens Security will cost \$1 Million in 2026? That cost has increased by almost one quarter of a million dollars since 2024.

Are you surprised? Do you want to continue to pay this amount? Do we need a full-time staff of 10 and two security guards per shift? Can we get the same service at a lower cost?

In September I sent an email to the HGA Board asking that the Security operation and the increasing costs be reviewed. I believe there are ways to streamline the department for a cost that is more reasonable and realistic. That doesn't mean reducing services.

By way of review, HG is sending out a survey soon. The draft survey mentions reducing services and cost shifting. This implies current costs are necessary to maintain security services. I believe any reduction should be in the number of full-time positions, not services.

Security has always had additional duties. Some of those duties mentioned in the draft survey were in place in 2015, with only 5 full-time staff!

Varied preferences from a survey may not fit into an obvious option moving forward. To accomplish this, HG can/should research other security options available for us to consider.

I just wanted to let you know what is coming and have time to think about it.

Thank you.
-Candice Compton, B220

Heather 'n Yon,

Thanks to ALL who made our New Year's Eve Dance Party such a happy, wonderful event.

First, a special thank you to Jon Rea, general manager, and staff who embraced the call for needing the event so that members did not have to travel on New Year's Eve while we have a fabulous, safe home here. Some 140 (sold out crowd) happy campers came to celebrate.

Second, thank you to Donna Stein, assistant clubhouse manager, who made beautiful flyers on December 5 that we blasted all over our community. She was also able to get musicians Cindy and Bryce, who fortunately were available to provide the dance music after they turned down gigs that lasted until midnight instead of 10 p.m. Our 7 to 10 p.m. event was perfect for them and us. Their lively and expansive list of songs had a multitude of dancers of every type on the dance floor.

Third, thank you to our chefs. The various appetizers were deliciously prepared by Rendezvous Chef Josh and Chef Rick and manager Tony Walker. The huge chocolate-covered strawberries were to die for!!

Fourth, thanks to all who decorated the lobby and auditorium so beautifully. The over 200 balloons that Donna and staff inflated, and the photo op arch, party favors and stage decorations added to the fun ambiance.

Fifth, thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the party moving and grooving: Linda Worthey, Kathleen Gladdis, Robbie Snyder and Tina Miller and our clubhouse manager Juanita Dominguez kept everything rolling to get to champagne time. Cheers!

Sixth, thanks to all the custodial staff for the clean-up.

It was a happy Happy New Year event that we should keep as a TRADITION!

Thanks,
-Doris Ferry and Loy Oakes, B220

Heather 'n Yon,

While in the checkout line at a recent trip to the grocery store I made a comment to the gal behind me as we were waiting. She asked if I lived in Heather Gardens and said she recognized me.

Soon it was my turn and I checked out and when I inserted my credit card to pay, it was rejected. The clerk asked if I had another card, which I didn't. I'd left in a hurry from home and didn't even have my checkbook with me. When she saw what was happening the neighbor behind me (Margie Francone) immediately pulled out her card, handed it to the cashier and said she would pay for my groceries. (I discovered later in the day that my credit card had been hacked.) Imagine my surprise! I got her name and phone number and told her I would call her and get a check over to her that afternoon. We live close to one another and arranged to meet her later on the path that runs around the golf course.

In Heather Gardens we are so fortunate to have neighbors like Margie! This is a wonderful place to live and all I can say is "I LOVE

see page 33

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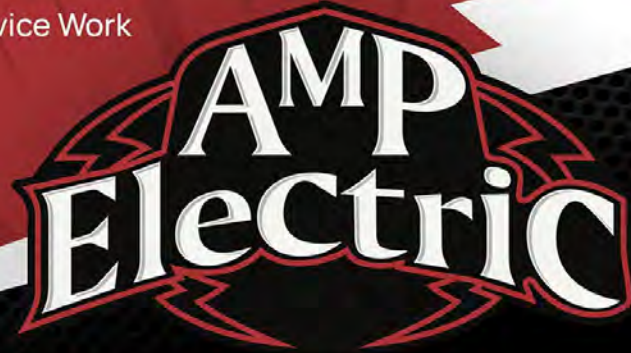
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MY NEIGHBORS!"
-Cindy Crockett, CP3

Heather 'n Yon,

To All Residents, HGA Board &
HGMD Board

After showing a one-minute video of an EV car fire and multiple explosions at our last Town Hall meeting and other committees, you have an idea of the ferocious and explosive nature of EV car fires using Li-Ion batteries.

We need to establish some guidelines ASAP to protect our community lives and property from potential super hazardous fires by requiring all EV cars to be parked outside our buildings and not in basement parking garages in high rise buildings and in garages in CP & Townhomes. A fire like the one shown in the video would be catastrophic in a high-rise garage requiring evacuation of all residents and vacating for extended periods of time due to very toxic fumes and gases that can kill you. Extended periods would be required to repair damage to structures and decontamination of the entire building.

I urge our two boards to take immediate action to enact new guidelines to ban parking in and under our buildings by EV cars.

-Rudy Morris, B217

HGA President note: National Safety statistics state that EV fires account for only 25 per 100,000 cars sold which is 0.025%. ICE (internal combustion engines - gasoline powered) cars account for 1,530 per 100,000 cars sold or 1.53%

Heather 'n Yon,

During the month of December, CP1 Residents collected and donated two cars-full of much needed supplies for the St. Francis Day Shelter and the Senior (55+) Housing at St. Francis West.

CP1 packed boxes of personal hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, bars of soap, shampoo, lotion, body & foot powder and shaving cream. Also, coats, sweaters, blankets, towels, jeans, socks, shoes and books).

For the "housed" guests in the 60 units at St. Francis West, they took large cartons of food to address the current crisis (canned soups, beans, tuna, fruit, sauces, vegetables and boxed dry goods such as pasta and rice). An Instant Pot Pressure Cooker was added.

These tenants have a history of homelessness, disabling conditions, minimal income and limited family support available.

-Tammi Thompson, CP1



CP1 Elves Submitted by Tammi Thompson

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.

Word Limit: 300

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

Please submit letters to:
bluefishpublishingco@gmail.com
Subject line: Letter to the Editor

Thank you!

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Aging Strong in Heather Gardens

Aging Strong meets 1st Monday of the month, 2:30 pm in the Aspen Room. This organization's mission is to support residents who wish to age in place while promoting community responsibility and proactive engagement. This is a grassroots effort driven by compassion, connection, and a shared belief that growing older should come with dignity and support. Contact the club leaders by email at agingstronghg@gmail.com. Website: AgingStrongHG.wixsite.com/agingstrong

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

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 Bar & Grill for breakfast. Call 303-794-3332 to make your reservation. Cost is

\$20. TBC has grown in the past 20 years — it has three other chapters along the Front Range. We have ongoing activities, such as bowling, the Birthday Bash, eating at a new restaurant, and Happy Hour. Each month, there are also different activities planned, such as museums, sports events, plays, concerts, and day trips, to name a few. Come see! – Suzanne Harmes

CP1

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

CP2

Generally, CP-2 meets the second Tuesday in February from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm in the Aspen/Blue Spruce Rooms, but for this February, the residents have decided on a change and will meet Feb. 10 at Rendezvous Bar & Grill from 2-4 pm for Taco Tuesday. We meet the second Tuesday of the month in the Aspen/Blue Spruce rooms from 5 - 8 pm in February and October. These are BYO drinks and a dish to share events. In April, August and December, we will be meeting in the Rendezvous Bar and Grill from 4:30 – 7 pm. Drinks and food as well as tax and tip are at your own expense. In June, we meet in the Picnic Pavilion. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Koscove, AR Representative for CP-2, at 720-314-1584.

CP4

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

Caregivers Support Group

For February 17 only, we will be meeting in the Mountain View Room from 2-4 pm. The HG Caregivers Support Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month,

usually in the Aspen Room, from 2-4 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, except December. We normally meet in the Sandberg Auditorium, 2888 S. Heather Gardens Way, Aurora 80014, from 4-5:30 pm. The Democratic Club supports the Constitution, the rule of law, and GOOD GOVERNMENT. We work to inform our elected officials, ourselves and others, and work on campaigns to get our candidates elected. 2026 is a "midterm" election year. Our meetings this year will primarily focus on Democratic candidates. Our February meeting will present the Arapahoe County candidates, because the caucus on March 3 and County Assembly on March 7 will determine which candidates will be on the primary ballot. Our March meeting will be about the state-wide candidates, because the primary ballot candidates for those offices will be chosen at the State Assembly on March 28. Please come learn about the candidates and participate in the caucus and assembly processes. I don't want any responsible citizen to look at the names on the ballot in November and say, "I don't know anything about these people." Here is your chance to learn about them. Please join us February 24 for our meeting. Some of us go to the Rendezvous for dinner and socializing after the meeting. All are welcome. You don't have to live in Heather Gardens and you don't have to be registered as a Democrat. Our meetings are free and open to all. -Marty Karnopp, Chair. 303-353-9640, mjkarnopp@gmail.com.

Frolics

Our next social event will be Saturday, February 28, 2:30 pm. Come play with us at the Improv Olympics. For more information and RSVP, contact Arlene Krell at

720.284.9774. Mark your calendar for our upcoming 2026 Annual Spring Production, "Dueling Divas," Friday, May 1, at 4 pm; Saturday, May 2, at 6 pm; Sunday, May 3, at 3 pm. Our next Traveling Troupe performance at the Rendezvous will be Tuesday, February 17, at 4 pm – "Notes of Love and Laughter." No charge, just purchase a drink, some munchies, or dinner and enjoy the show. Reservations highly recommended.

Garden Club

The 2026 Garden Club meetings will resume Monday, March 30. Meetings are generally held the last Monday of every month, March through October. Location-- Aspen/Blue Spruce Room, from 6 pm -7:30 pm. Please contact President Nancy Linsenbigler at 720-932-6990 with questions or to be placed on the Club email or Waiting List.

The Green Team

Our club has always supported a cleaner environment, which includes the air we breathe. We are delighted to include the new AURORA RIDES in our effort. This new trial transportation service is being funded by a grant through the City of Aurora and RTD. It's FREE! Here is our opportunity to save gasoline. If you still use a car to get to the Aurora Senior Center for a class or if you're meeting a friend for lunch at the Rendezvous, just call (720)881-0197, save money on gas and let someone else drive. The result is fewer fumes going into the air. The service has wheelchair accessible vehicles and is available to everyone 60+ years of age. Because this is a trial service through 2027, all our residents need to take advantage of it. You will feel good about saving money, and at the same time feel great about helping save our planet. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 in the Skyview Room. All are welcome! -W. Pfaffhausen (303)587-9797

Heather Gardens Singers

We rehearse in the Skyview room from 1-2:30 pm on Tuesdays. Come sing in the HG Singers

chorus where all skill levels are welcome. There are two basic requirements for joining this group:

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

High Twelve Club #11 Masonic Club/HG

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

Indivisible/HG/Aurora

Heather Gardens / Aurora Indivisible meets the 2nd Friday of each month, 11:30 am – 12:50 pm, in the HG Library (Media Room). You are welcome to join us for lunch afterward at Rendezvous. Connected to over 1,200 groups nationwide, Heather Gardens Indivisible is a community of neighbors who choose to make a difference in the world, addressing the many problems we see with positive, forward-thinking actions. We address issues that concern us, such as wealth inequality, racial

injustice, environmental threats, women's reproductive rights, gun safety, etc., with both education and action. Although people of any political affiliation are welcome, our approach is progressive. Whether you can regularly attend the meetings or not, you are welcome to also sign up for our newsletter of information and action items. For more information, please contact Colleen Cussick at redhdcoll@gmail.com

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

Winter term is well underway for Learners, and we're excited to welcome an enthusiastic group of participants. Once again, we are seeing a number of first timers joining us. We love to see folks who haven't taken a class previously try us out, as it demonstrates the community's desire to keep their minds active and engaged.

This term features a new cast of medical professionals presenting a variety of important medical topics. And a new offering is local attorneys presenting "Legal Issues for Seniors," a subject we believe will provide valuable insights and practical advice. In addition, we have made technology topics a regular and repeating series, with each term introducing something new and relevant. In the future, look for topics which are important to you, and we always welcome your suggestions.

One addition to our publication is a week-by-week listing of topics so attendees can pick which sessions interest them and skip those that may

not be relevant to their needs. For example, in Tech Topics, if you are interested in the latest on scams and frauds particularly targeting seniors, but don't care about learning Microsoft's File Explorer, you can skip the latter topic. You don't have to attend every week, allowing you the flexibility to focus on what matters most to you. There's still time to register for the final weeks.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has signed up this term. We always value your thoughts, so don't forget to fill out the class evaluations. If you need an evaluation form or have any questions, you can contact us at heathergardenslearners@gmail.com. Completed evaluations may be placed in the Lifelong Learners cubby box in the Clubhouse lobby. We are busy planning a new lineup of interesting and entertaining classes for the spring.

Low Vision Support Group

Low Vision Support Group meets on February 23 (fourth Monday of the month) in the Aspen Room, 1:30 pm. Questions? Call Marsha Bengen, 720-535-5224

Meet & Schmooze

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

Men with Purpose

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

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

National Federation of the Blind, Aurora Chapter

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

Optimist Club

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

Personal Protection for Seniors

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

Red Hattitudes

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

Republican / We the People Club

We usually hold our regular meeting on the 3rd Thursday each month. We support the US Constitution, practical governance, and the protection of life and liberty. Our goal is to provide reliable resources and timely information to keep informed about events and topics affecting our community, state, and nation.

Upcoming Events/Meetings

February 18, 2026. Guest Speaker: Dr Andy Sheibo, DU TPUSA Chapter Sponsor. We will meet in the Rendezvous Dining Hall, 3:00-4:30 pm. Soup and Sandwich bar cost: \$20. Please join us. RSVP: rlomeara1@gmail.com

February 19, 2026. Reorganization meeting and news, 3:00-4:30 pm, Arts and Crafts Room

Important Dates

Election season is officially underway, leading up to Primary and November elections. This is the moment when members have the greatest opportunity to shape the direction of our party and our community. March 3 Caucus Heather Gardens Clubhouse 6:30-9pm Sandburg Auditorium

- These early steps are where your grassroots voices have the most powerful, influential impact! Therefore, your participation is crucial. Most counties require in person attendance although we hope to release a Zoom for ADA compliance and that process soon.
- Consider running as a delegate or precinct leader — This is one of the most direct ways to make an impact!
- Eligibility: Interested parties must be registered with the GOP party and meet any local deadlines for affiliation or address updates. Colorado SOS website: My Voter Registration.

County Assembly March 21, 2026
State Assembly April 11, 2026
We The People Republican Club welcomes members' family, friends and neighbors to all events and scheduled meetings. Annual Dues are \$20. We fund club events, make donations to select organizations and candidates who support America First Values. For

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

more information contact Wendy Hollister at whmar90@gmail.com or text at 720.446.7778. We look forward to meeting together this month.

RV Lot Club

Our club is open to all who RV, not just those who rent space in the HG RV Storage Lot. At our meetings, we share information and experience about RV-ing. We lobby to improve conditions in the storage lot. We also anticipate having social, travel and camping activities. Contact: Lee Nicholson at 720-949-2032.

Saturday Afternoon LIVE Social

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

Sevillians

All Residents of Buildings 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, and 236: We have had a very successful year as we continue to hold the Sevillians Dinner on the first Tuesday of each month in the Banquet Room of the Rendezvous Bar & Grill at 5:00 p.m. A combination Invitation & SignUp Sheet is placed in your building each month, or you can rsvp to Janet Arce at: arcej1946@gmail.com or (720) 774-3368. Bring a friend or a neighbor.

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, February 19 from 10 am-12 noon in the Blue Spruce Room. Our purpose is to effect change in behaviors through understanding, increasing our awareness, expanding our knowledge, fostering reconciliation and sharing stories

of equity or inequity, inclusion or exclusion. Our program will focus on Black History. A live animated version of the book “Juneteenth Dinner Discussion” will be shown. The book was written by Reginald S. Webb Jr. and the video was created by Misty Lopez.

Co-facilitators: Diane Pritchard dianekpritchard@gmail.com and Bernie Hupperts marlynber@gmail.com

Spanish Club (Club en Español)

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

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 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 MIjackson81@gmail.com.

Torah Club

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

Please contact Trish Patterson at 301-802-7390.

Voice For Residents Forum

Fostering fact-based information, education, and communications on current issues involving Heather Gardens residents, leadership, and management. Hear updates on resident-initiated projects, and reports from HG and HGMD committees. Open Forum for your questions and ideas. Second Saturday of each month, 3- 4:30 pm, in the Mountain View Room. Questions, comments, please contact Marilyn Macdonald at thevoiceforresidentsforum@gmail.com

Woodshop Club

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

Writers Club

Do you want to write your memoirs? Have you put poems or prose to paper? Have you thought of writing a book, but didn’t think you could? Come meet with other writers at the HG Writers Club. Join us on Thursdays, 1-3 pm, Skyview Room. Club contact: Barbara Creswell, 651-485-3608.

Clubs/Organizations SUBMISSIONS

Email: gjlesher@gmail.com
Deadline listed on p. 30
300 word limit

SPORTS & RECREATION

Billiard Club

The Billiard Club meets for Co-ed 8-Ball at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays. Check in BEFORE 6:10 in order to play. Men's 9-Ball is at 7 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.

8 Ball Winners 12/16/25 – 1/13/26
Dec. 16

1. Brian Bucenec/Dee Moore
2. Otis Lawson/Louise Lucero
3. Greg Kachedorian/ Linda Gonzalez

Dec. 23

1. Otis Lawson/Debbie Rodighiero
2. Ditto Schultz Team
3. Michael Greene/Linda Gonzalez

Dec. 30

1. Otis Lawson/Shannon Boyd
2. Brian Bucenec/Linda Gonzalez
3. Roger Goldstein/Rita Cusak

Jan. 6

1. Jack Doherty/ Judy Hein
2. Greg Martens/Melodie Blume
3. Ditto Schultz/Melissa Sugar

Jan. 13

1. Otis Lawson/Melissa Sugar
2. Jack Doherty/Sharon Weiss
3. Bob Woods/Dee Moore

9 Ball Winners 12/18/25 – 1/15/26
Dec. 18

1. Steve Hesser
2. Ditto Schultz 3. Scott Crowl

Jan. 8

1. Gregg Martens
2. Ditto Schultz
3. Otis Lawson

Jan. 15

1. Greg Kachadorian
2. Scott Crowl
3. John Manzaneres

Bocce Ball Club

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

Bowling League

The Heather Gardens Coed Bowling League is Thursday

mornings at 10 at Arapahoe Bowling Center. For information call: Mary Jo Prichard 303-929-1241

Bridge/Men's Monday

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

Bridge/Social

Open, casual, intermediate-level bridge is played on Thursdays in Mountain View Room 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

Weather permitting, Wednesday May 6 will be the first day of play for the Heather Gardens Ladies Golf Club 2026 season. While players shake off the winter doldrums, the board is finalizing the Golf Genius communications platform. The board's other important task is the development

of the yearly event schedule, which will be published as dates are finalized. The one date that has been set is the annual membership meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, March 18. Members should watch their email for the time and location.

CLUB WEBSITE

All women, regardless of skill level, who are interested in league play are invited to join HGLGC. Learn more about the club and get a membership application at the Heather Gardens Pro Shop and on our website, www.heathergardensladiesgolfclub.com or contact Membership Chair Suzi Stolte at dakota121994@outlook.com.

Golf/Men's

The Heather Gardens Men's Golf Club (HGMGC) will be starting up again in April, but now's the time to submit your application to play in the upcoming season. We play every Friday. In addition to regular tournaments, we also have fun events like Blue, White Red days, 4-Man Best Ball, 4-Man Scramble, and finishing the season with "3 clubs and a putter." We will have the occasional shotgun start and we'll even provide food every now and then. We also have a Spring Banquet to open the season and a Fall Banquet to close it out. Pick up your application at the Golf Pro Shop. You may also download the application from Golf League Tracker (GLT) at www.golfliguetracker.com/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 along with the application fee. We accept checks (made out to HGMGC) or cash only; no Venmo, PayPal, or other money app. If you have any questions, please contact the Golf Pro Shop, (303) 751-2390 or send an email to jdf.hgmgl@gmail.com.

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

Ever wonder why Pickleball has everyone grinning, paddles in hand? The rallies are quick, the laughs come easy, and friendships form faster than you can say “dink shot.” It is exercise disguised as play, stress relief wrapped in joy, and a social magnet that keeps us coming back for more. Whether you're brand new, returning after a break, or just curious what all the chatter is about, come join us on the Clubhouse courts. You'll find instant fun, welcoming faces, and maybe even your new favorite hobby. Pickleball isn't just a sport, it's a lifestyle we celebrate. We love it so much we shovel the courts and layer up for winter play. Yes, Pickleball is that much fun. Club Play 10 AM–1 PM
• OPEN Play (all levels)
Tuesdays, Saturdays & Sundays: drop in, mix in, and enjoy

•INTERMEDIATE Play

Fridays: for those who want lively, social games

•ADVANCED Play

Thursdays: with faster rallies, sharper strategy & competitive fun
2026 Dues Being Collected.

Dues are \$20 for residents and \$30 for non residents. To keep enjoying free use of HG meeting and social spaces, the Club must maintain at least 75% HG residents as members. Our current ratio means that we are currently wait-listing non residents and must receive 3 resident payments before admitting another non resident. If you're a new or re joining resident, please pay your 2026 Club dues asap. You'll help the Pickleball Club thrive and unlock more playmates for everyone. Think of it as doing a good deed... with the bonus of more dinking buddies. See any Pickleball Club officer to ante up. For more information, visit hgpickle.org or call Jan Belt at 301 514 8526.

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.

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. Although you can join and start learning at any time during the year, starting at the beginning of the spring season, usually mid to late March, facilitates this step-by-step learning method. The club meets on Thursday mornings from 8 - 11 am on the clubhouse tennis courts. The club is a residents only club. Please contact Dean Uyeno via e-mail at dean.uyeno@live.com prior to your first meeting for information that will help make your first experience enjoyable and productive.

Tennis Club

You are welcome to join us. We play at 1:00 pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On Saturdays, we start at 2:00 pm. If you crave moderate activity but don't have the equipment, no problem. Our members are very generous. Join us for fun and laughs. It's a new year, so let's check off exercise on that To-Do List. For more information, call (303) 587-9797. -W. Pfaffhausen

Sports/Recreation SUBMISSIONS

Email: gjlesher@gmail.com
Deadline listed on p. 30
300 word limit



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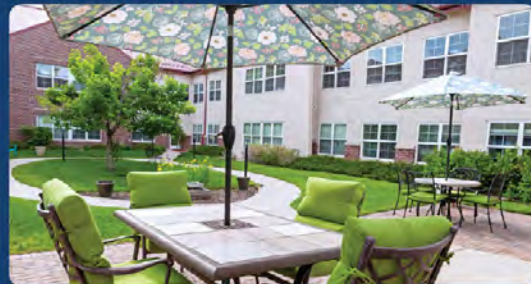
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from p. 11 (HGMD President Report)

- Meet with the community manager, district manager, treasurer, and legal counsel. Complete available training on governance.
- Examine current capital projects, upcoming assessments, and recent enforcement actions.
- Join one committee (finance, architectural, maintenance) to gain operational insights.

When I first read these descriptions I choked. I like to think I am a good board member, but I really don't feel like I come close to measuring up to these standards. But I try. Look at the current board members of either board and you will see some members' strengths balance out others' weaknesses. We all share some core competencies and a desire to always do and be better at our job. The amount of time and effort spent by board members cannot be overestimated.

If you can feel comfortable meeting a reasonable number of the qualifications listed above, feel comfortable in working with the current board members, feel comfortable in taking on board responsibilities and devote the time necessarily required, and you are sure you can help make this community a little better for everyone, then please apply for the HGMD Board. An application can be obtained through the HOA Office, online, or by contacting Evelyn Ybarra. Please include a recently updated resume with your application.

Happy Valentine's Day to all.

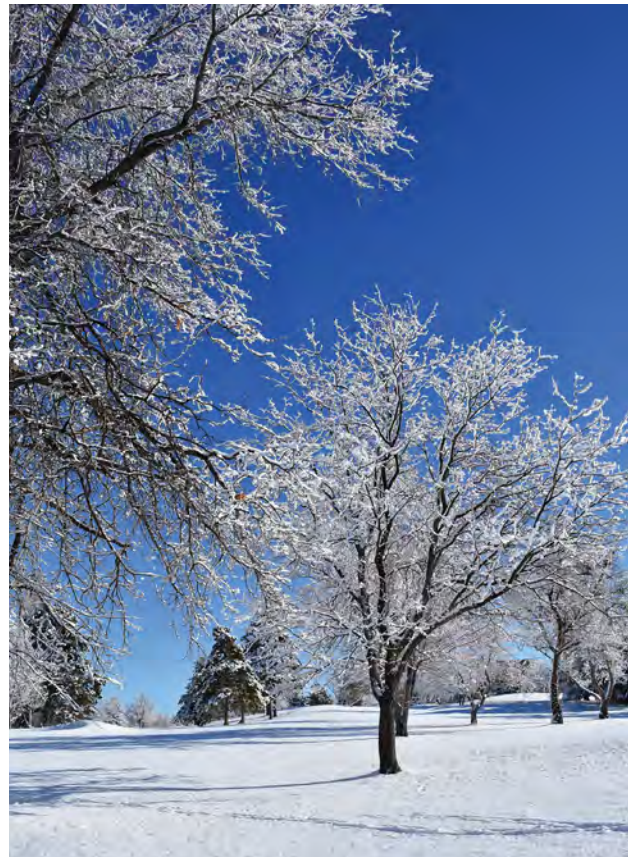


Photo by Janis Farrell

Bible Study (Interdenominational) on every Wednesday, 9–10 am, Aspen Room (women); Blue Spruce Room (men). Join a lovely group of caring women dedicated to the study of the word of God. We welcome everyone. No sign-up. Just show up. Call Joyce Smith, 918-586-2954.

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

Ecumenical Bible Study. (Formerly Six Stone Jars Catholic Bible Study), All Christian traditions: Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, Other. Theme: Trust Jesus. We will begin by studying early Church history. Meets every Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30 am in the Mountain View Room. Drop in for a visit! Led by Eric Cline, D. Min., MA Biblical Exposition, 720-839-4289 or clinecellars57@gmail.com; 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. I can arrange help with Zoom if you need it.

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

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

- Sunday Bible Study: 10 am, Mountain View Room.
Leader: Pastor Bill Cheyne.
- Coffee Time: 3rd Sunday, prior to Chapel Service



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February 2026

- SEC (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, Feb 2
- HGA & HGMD Board Meeting - 2:30pm, Mon Feb 2**
- Maintenance (BR/Zoom) – 8:30am, Tues, Feb 3
- ~~CECC (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Tues, Feb 3~~ **cancelled**
- Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Feb 3
- Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Feb 4
- RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 11am, Mon, Feb 9
- Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Feb 10
- Foundation Committee (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Wed, Feb 11
- Restaurant (BR/Zoom) – 3pm, Thurs, Feb 12
- Personnel Policy (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Fri, Feb 13
- Budget & Finance (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Tues, Feb 17
- Technology (BR/Zoom) - 2pm, Tues, Feb 17
- Joint Long Range (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Wed, Feb 18
- Water Conservation - 1pm, Wed, Feb 18
- ACC (Zoom) – 10am Thu, Feb 19
- HGA Board Meeting (BR/Zoom) - 1pm, Tues, Feb 24**
- Resident Orientation (BR) – 10am, Wed, Feb 25
- HGMD Board Meeting (BR/Zoom), 1pm, Thu, Feb 26**

March 2026

- SEC (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Mon, Mar 2
- Maintenance (Zoom) – 8:30am, Tuesday, Mar 3
- CECC (BR/Zoom) – 10am, Tues, Mar 3
- Golf (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, March 3
- RV Lot (BR/Zoom) – 11am, Mon, Mar 9
- Clubhouse (BR/Zoom) – 1pm, Tues, Mar 10

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

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Overheard @ HG

It' a SAD life for furry columnists



The Hafka Children

This column is co-authored by Poppy, the pup; Quill, the tuxie cat; and Jelli, the gray-striped tabby. Management not responsible for hissing, biting, and obscene animalistic language.

Quill: Hello, loyal readers. I am Quill, the senior-most member of this trio of furry guest columnists. Each February, the pets residing at this patio home pitch in and write the month's column. The usual columnist, who is human, pleads that she has seasonal affective disorder (SAD) every February, and must set aside any attempts at humor.

Jelli: We are happy to rise to the occasion – so long as it doesn't interfere with nap time – because most people tell us that we are better writers than the regular columnist, anyway. We view life at HG from a different perspective, anyway, one that is lower to the ground. Or higher, should we elect to jump up on the kitchen cabinets.

Poppy: Woof!

Jelli: Quill, why do you insist, every year, on letting the dog into our writer's circle? She never adds anything useful, plus she gets short, white hairs all over the keyboard.

Quill: Like you don't shed all over the keyboard yourself? We have to include her, or she'll take revenge by slurping up all our cat food.

Poppy: Gr-r-r-r!

Jelli: Useless! This dog is useless.

Quill: But she outweighs us. And so we try to make her feel important while we cats do all the actual work.

Poppy: Slobber, slobber, drool, drool.

Jelli: Now she's drooling all over the keyboard. Grab a towel, and let's get on with this before she shorts out the computer.

Quill: Okay, now that I'm done swabbing, hurry up and type something, or we'll never get done in time for dinner. You know our human is vindictive, and capable of withholding food if we haven't finished our chores.

We would like to use this month's column to report to the HG neighborhood that we received no Christmas presents in December. In years past, such lavish gifts have arrived as a triple-decker cat castle, the latest in cat condos with scratching posts, a plush-fur cat hammock and two Catasaurus donut caves.

Jelli: But this year – nada. Nothing. Zilcho. Poppy didn't get any gifts, either – which, as far as I'm concerned, is as it should be.

Poppy: Snarl!

Quill: That's not entirely true. Poppy received a hot-pink Martingale collar that is designed to discourage her pulling on the leash. I don't think she liked it much, though.

Poppy: Patooie!

Quill: I personally think our human has a lot of nerve in expecting us to slave so hard over a hot column, then offer us no recompense for shouldering the work that's assigned to her. Humans can get awfully spoiled, so we have decided that some changes need to be made around here, Missy.

Poppy: Arf.

Jelli: Even Poppy agrees. She can see the sense in this, and she's as dumb as dirt.

Poppy: Wait! What did you say?

Quill: OMG! Now you've done it. Throw her some dog treats, quick.

Poppy: Munch, munch.

Quill: As we were saying, in 2026, to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country, we believe that a little liberation for house pets is in order. In future, we expect gifts and gratuities to arrive on a regular basis.

Jelli: Just turn over the password to the Amazon account, and nobody will get hurt. The credit card bills for such purchases will continue to go to the human.

Poppy: Crunch.

Quill: Poppy, that's my tail. Stop chewing on it.

Jelli: That dog is a waste of fur.

Quill: Are we about done writing this column? My pads are worn to the wick, and my tail is getting shorter by the minute.

Jelli: I think so. We've managed to get across the most important point, I think, which is that we hard-working animals failed to receive the remuneration we deserved in 2025. Anyone who would like to help remedy that situation in 2026 may drop off offerings on our front porch at any time, day or night. Anything you'd like to add, Poppy?

Poppy: I did not drool all over the keyboard. Anyone who says I did is a filthy liar. Happy Semiquincentennial, everyone.

Quill: I prefer Happy Bisesquicentennial, but okay. What she said.

Jelli: Why not just say, Happy Quarter Millennium? Let's keep it simple for the humans.

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