

Heather Ridge Metro Matters

VOLUME 2

JULY 2011

NUMBER 1

Preserving the Heather Ridge open space –

- **Maintained best as a Golf Course**
- **Protecting real estate values**
- **Promoting a positive way of life**



*Oh what a wonderful bird is a Pelican.
His beak can hold more than his belly can.
He can hold in his beak
Enough food for a week!
And I don't know how the hellican.
– Ogden Nash*



1st Anniversary Issue!

Heather Ridge Community Affairs Social Gathering

In the spirit of getting to know each other better and to exchange mutually beneficial information, the Second Annual Cocktail Party will be held June 23, at the Heather Ridge Club House, 5–6:30 pm. All HOA board members and their partners, HRMD Board, Golf Club at Heather Ridge, Inc. Board, and United Associations of Heather Ridge Board members are invited. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served with a cash bar.

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Heather Ridge Metro Matters is published monthly for the residents of Heather Ridge.

Metro District Board Members

(Visit HRMDco.org, HRMD button) Contact Vinny Roith for questions: 303-755-3660; 720-246-0306
info@hrmdco.org; HeatherRidgeColorado.org

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Van Lewis (Heather Ridge South), Assistant Secretary
Jim Bruce (Fairway 16), Assistant Secretary
Joan Beldock (Country Club Ridge), Assistant Secretary
Mary Lou Braun (Cobblestone), Assistant Secretary

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

Heather Ridge Metro Matters welcomes letters and other articles concerned with community issues. Letters must be signed, dated and include the writer's phone number. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send to LynnNeu@comcast.net

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President Josie Spencer (Heather Ridge South)
Vice President Scott Dunham (Chimney Hill)
Burgundy, burghoa.com
Chimney Hill
Cobblestone
Cobblestone Crossing
Double Tree
Fairway 16, homesteadmgmt.com/fairway16
Heather Ridge South, Heatherridgesouth.com
Sausalito, sausalitohoa.com
Strawberry, strawberryhoa.com
website: www.uahr.org

Managers, Golf Club at Heather Ridge

13521 E Iliff Ave, Aurora, CO 80014
303-755-3550

Mike Ritter, Golf Pro and Club Manager
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Board: Ed Oswald (Fairway 16), Larry Ransford (Cobblestone Crossing), Larry Ricketts (Men's Club) and Loren Janulewicz (Men's Club)
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Heather Ridge Metropolitan District: News and Happenings

The Golf Course at Heather Ridge is now in full swing for the 2011 golf season after a cold, wet and disappointing May. Like the Rockies baseball team, May along the Front Range was a tough month for all golf operations. Not only did the weather reduce allowable tee times, it slowed the pace of play (cart paths only), and delayed construction on the irrigation project. May's revenue losses, due to construction, were estimated at 10 percent. Record rainfall further reduced revenue up to 20 percent or more.

For the most current financial information, please visit the HRMD's website www.hrmdco.org. Click the left side box "HRMD" for the latest HRMD information and a link to financial reports. This is the most up-to-date information available, unless you attend the HRMD's monthly meetings.

The Monthly Financial Reports are preliminary drafts and subject to change until approved at the HRMD's monthly meeting. Regular meetings are at 4 pm on the third Thursday of each month at the Heather Ridge Clubhouse. As for *Metro Matters*, its publication cycle is almost two months after HRMD's publications.

The irrigation project is done. It is operational, and was completed "almost" on budget. The cost overrun, approximately \$11,300, was due to increased construction features required to comply with city code and city building permits for the well pump shed at the #5 tee box.

Now that everything is completed, Bob Knutson begins fine-tuning and de-bugging the irrigation system. The new system will have reduced labor and material costs, freeing up budget items for other areas.

The back-nine irrigation repairs will be incremental over the next two-three years, using

salvaged parts from the front-nine. No one is better at this than Bob Knutson. He has kept the course running for decades as owners came and went.

Public Presentation by Arapahoe County Assessor: Mr. Corbin Sakdol

On May 24, Arapahoe County Assessor Corbin Sakdol and four staff members gave a bang-up, fact-filled Power Point presentation about property assessment at HR Clubhouse. About 50 citizens armed with their assessment statements showed up to get justice, but Corbin correctly and entertainingly showed them the facts. It can't be said they left happy, but they were not mad at him anymore.

Corbin's four assistants took appeals as he talked systematically through Colorado's property assessment process. His slides showed each assessment step, expected results, due dates and the appeal process. He encouraged unhappy owners to appeal because they know their property and neighborhoods best.

Given all the fuss and fury over falling home values, Corbin helped people understand why today's housing prices and real estate market aren't used for 2011 assessments. In fact, comparable sales for determining the 2011 assessments are actually pulled from an earlier home sales study period between July 2008 to June 2010. This period for current assessments is done according to state statute. The reappraisal timing period used shocked many viewers, but Corbin's presentation clearly showed the facts.

Once property tax assessments are certified, the Treasurer's Office quantifies levy requests (those who want property tax money and their authority to get it).

See HRMD...page 7

**HRMD, UAHR and HRCA
meetings are open to residents!**



Pete Traynor
 Double Tree
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With the 2011 real estate market half over, it is still undecided what it wants to do when it grows up. Influenced by mixed and unstable prices, job insecurity, and uncertain mortgage and appraisal rules,

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buyers are hesitant to close. In fact, rentals are the hottest market in town. Realtors are now observing a market condition called "compression." As lower-priced homes (under \$200,000) truly rise in value, they collide with falling upper-end prices (\$400,000 and up). The number of high-end sales has increased due to their own price discounting to move distressed sales. Once closed, these sales distort "average prices" upward when in fact the market is anemic. As reported last month, Heather Ridge Metro District home sales continue to be brisk. Unfortunately, distressed sales (foreclosures, short sales) are still disproportionately influencing values and sales activity, which hurts everyone. The Arapahoe County Assessor, Corbin Sakdol, said at his May 24 public appearance here that Heather Ridge Metro District's average assessed value is up from 2009. The exact numbers will be published after the appeal process ends, but that's a good sign. Coming is a new website for Heather Ridge dedicated to our real estate needs. Heather Ridge Community Affairs will manage and staff it. Any interested realtors, appraisers, mortgage or real estate savvy people in or out of HRMD wanting to help are asked to contact Van Lewis at van.lewis@HRMDco.org.

Thanks, Pete and Van

(The Following Properties May Have Been Listed or Sold by Other Companies)

Homes for Sale in Heather Ridge, New Listings May 1–June 5

HOA	Price	No.	Street	Baths	Beds	SqFt	Gar/Spaces	Style
Burgundy	\$90,000	2623	S Xanadu Way E	2	2	1,315	Off Street	2 Story
Burgundy	\$124,900	2635	S Xanadu Way D	2	2	1,162	2-Garage,Det,Resv	2 Story
Chimney Hill	\$119,900	2063	S Worchester St	3	2	2,002	1-Garage,Att	2 Story
Chimney Hill	\$136,500	2021	S Worchester St	3	3	1,896	1-Garage,Att	2 Story
Chimney Hill	\$137,500	2052	S Worchester St	2	2	1,826	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Cobblestone	\$85,000	2122	S Victor St C	2	2	1,208	1-Garage,Det	1.5 Story
Cobblestone	\$90,000	2101	S Victor St A	2	2	1,208	1-Garage,Det	2 Story
Cobblestone	\$109,900	2161	S Victor St B	2	2	1,392	1-Garage,Det	2 Story
Cobblestone	\$115,000	2101	S Victor St C	2	2	1,208	1-Det,Off Street,Resv	2 Story
Cobblestone Crossing	\$84,000	13314	E Asbury Dr A	2	2	1,208	1-Garage,Det	2 Story
Cobblestone Crossing	\$100,000	13426	E Asbury Dr	2	2	1,208	Off Street	2 Story
Cobblestone Crossing	\$114,900	13598	E Asbury Dr	2	2	1,208	Off Street	2 Story
Cobblestone Crossing	\$139,000	13266	E Asbury Dr	2	2	1,392	1-Off Street	2 Story
Country Club Ridge	\$169,900	2240	S Vaughn Way 204	2	2	1,124	1-Garage,Att,Oversized	Ranch
Country Club Ridge	\$177,000	2230	S Vaughn Way 101	2	2	1,196	1-Garage,Att,Off Street	Ranch
Country Club Ridge	\$185,000	2260	S Vaughn Way 104	3	3	1,680	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Country Club Ridge	\$209,900	2220	S Vaughn Way 102	2	3	1,722	2-Garage,Att	Ranch
Fairway 16	\$144,900	2558	S Vaughn Way C	4	4	2,380	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Fairway 16	\$165,000	2610	S Vaughn Way C	4	4	2,341	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Fairway 16	\$179,500	2446	S Vaughn Way A	4	3	2,400	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Fairway 16	\$164,900	2680	S Vaughn B	4	4	1,650	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Heather Ridge South	\$144,900	2824	S Wheeling Way	4	4	2,384	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Heather Ridge South	\$148,000	2869	S Xanadu Way	4	4	2,309	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Heather Ridge South	\$155,923	2787	S Xanadu Way	3	3	2,346	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Sausalito	\$93,000	2500	S Victor St F	2	3	1,273	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Sausalito	\$139,500	2458	S Victor St D	2	3	1,300	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Sausalito	\$163,900	2511	S Worchester St	2	2	1,273	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$55,000	13657	E Yale Ave C	1	1	856	1-Carport	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$64,500	2658	S Xanadu Way D	1	1	856	1-Carport,Det	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$65,900	2694	S Xanadu Way C	1	1	856	1-Carport,Det	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$69,900	13633	E Yale Ave A	1	1	856	None	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$79,900	13605	E Yale Ave A	1	1	856	1-Carport,Det	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$120,000	13631	E Yale Ave C	2	2	1,098	1-Carport	Ranch

Homes under Contract in Heather Ridge

HOA	Price	No.	Street	Bed.Ba	SqFt	Gar/Spaces	Style
Burgundy	\$70,470	2661	S Xanadu Way A	2-2	1,162	Off Street	2-Story
Burgundy	\$77,760	2625	S Xanadu Way E	2-2	1,315	1-Off Street, Resv	2-Story
Cobblestone	\$85,000	2181	S Victor St A	2-2	1,392	1-Off Street, Resv	2-Story
Cobblestone Crossing	\$89,900	13396	E Asbury Dr	2-2	1,392	Off Street	2-Story
Country Club Ridge	\$184,500	2240	S Vaughn Way 104	3-3	1,680	2-Garage, Att	Ranch
Fairway 16	\$145,000	2426	S Vaughn Way A	4-3	1,650	2-Garage, Att	2-Story
Heather Ridge South	\$114,400	2888	S Wheeling Way	4-4	1,633	2-Garage, Att	2-Story
Strawberry I	\$35,000	2608	S Xanadu Way B	1	856	1-Carport	2-Story
Strawberry I	\$69,000	2664	S Xanadu Way A	2-2	1,144	1-Carport	Ranch/1 Story
Strawberry I	\$49,500	2614	S Xanadu Way B	1-1	856	1-Carport	2-Story
Strawberry I	\$59,900	2690	S Xanadu Way C	2-2	1,144	1-Carport	2-Story
Strawberry I	\$62,000	2606	S Xanadu Way A	2-2	1,098	None	Ranch

Homes Sold in Heather Ridge May 2011

HOA	List/Sold Price	No.	Street	Beds Baths	SqFt	Garage	Style	Seller	Seller credit
Burgundy	\$115,000	2625	S Xanadu Way F	2-2	1,315	2-Carport, Det, Resv	2 Story	Estate	none
Cobblestone Crossing	\$67,020	1913	S Xanadu Way	2-2	1,208	1-Carport, Det	2 Story	Bank	\$3,000
Cobblestone Crossing	\$88,200	13568	E Asbury Dr	2-2	1,392	1-Carport, Det	2 Story	Gov't	none
Fairway 16	\$108,500	2548	S Vaughn Way C	3-3	1,650	2-Garage, Att	2 Story	Gov't	none
Sausalito	\$125,000	2418	S Victor St D	2-3	1,300	2-Garage, Att	2 Story	Fix Flip	\$2,500
Sausalito	\$140,816	2501	S Victor St C	2-2	1,230	2-Garage, Att	Ranch	Individual	\$2,818
Strawberry I	\$49,900	2688	S Xanadu Way B	1-1	856	1-Carport, Det	1.5 Story	Individual	\$3,000
Strawberry I	\$60,000	2461	S Xanadu Way A	2-2	1,091	2-Carport, Det, Resv	2 Story	Individual	none



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Letters

Metro Matters,

I am writing to ask for your support for an important issue that could have tremendous impact on Aurora. I am referring to the Committee for New Recreation Centers, which grew out of the Aurora Residents for Recreation. It has had 40–50 volunteers working on this project for over two years.

I have made a contribution to this committee and am asking you to do the same. The Committee for New Recreation Centers is in the midst of a petition drive to place an issue on this fall's ballot that will create three new community recreation centers and remodel the only teen center in Aurora run by the city.

Although Aurora has grown to 325,000 residents, it still has only one true fully functioning recreation center. Beck, opened in 1970, is currently undergoing renovation and will be closed for a year. The last recreation center built in the city is the Senior Center, which opened in 1980 when the population was less than half of what it is today. In contrast, Lakewood, a city of only 150,000, has four recreation centers. While Denver has a larger population of 600,000, they operate 31 recreation centers.

Recreation centers are more than just gyms. They serve as community centers. They provide opportunities

for seniors to remain active and healthy, and perhaps most importantly, they provide positive and safe locations for youth. There are literally volumes of studies that show adolescents involved in sports and other recreational activities are less likely to join gangs or get in trouble with the law. At the same time, they do better in school and have a better chance to continue their education beyond high school. There are as many studies that show that adults and seniors who participate in physical activities live longer, healthier, more fulfilling lives.

The ballot issue being proposed comes after years of community input and feasibility studies. The plan calls for the construction of three new centers spread throughout Aurora and to renovate Moorhead Center in north Aurora. Nearly every Aurora resident would live within four miles of a proposed recreation centers.

Providing more centers not only yields recreational benefits, it can increase the property value for homeowners who never step inside a center. All four centers can be created for only an additional \$2.75 a month in residential property tax for each \$100,000 of home value. At this price, it can only be considered a bargain.

I am asking you to contribute to the Committee for New Recreation Centers. They are more than halfway to their signature goal and need your help to finish the job. A contribution of \$250, \$100, \$50

or whatever you can afford, will make the difference in this campaign. Please join me in supporting this critical issue.

Checks can be sent to:

Committee for New
Recreation Center
P.O. Box 473816
Aurora, CO 80047

Additional information, including the locations and facilities, can be found at www.arrtf.com.

Molly Markert
Ward IV Aurora
Council Member

P.S. The deadline for the petition drive is June 21. Please contribute today.

Metro Matters,

I just wanted to pass on some nice compliments we heard about the golf course and the restaurant last night. Our neighbor, Ruth Mellinger, brought Scott and I, as well as two other neighbors, up to Noonan's last night for dinner and drinks. Many of you probably know Ruth, who is 86, is an original owner at Chimney Hill, and probably has been a golfer at Heather Ridge for just as long.

Scott and I have been to Noonan's lots. It was Ruth's first time since Rob opened, and also the first time our neighbors Luann and Rosemaree had been in since the restaurant re-opened. It was Scott and my first time with the dinner menu.

The other ladies were all impressed by the crowd in Noonan's. I heard Luann, Ruth

See facing page

HRMD

...from page 3

Then, on Dec. 15 of each year, a Certification of Levies and Revenues by Arapahoe County Commissioners is published, which is the final statement used by the Treasurer's Office to determine and publish property tax statements. Although the property tax statement is sent to property owners in January 2012, note that the property tax bill is for 2011. Property taxes are always in arrears.

Thanks for a job well done: Ray Griffiths

Ray Griffiths resigned in early June after 22 months of service to the Heather Ridge Metropolitan District, United Associations of Heather Ridge and The Golf Club at Heather Ridge, Inc. Like so many other volunteers of the HRMD, Ray became involved to save the open space. Once involved, he took on ever-increasing leadership roles and duties.

Ray became involved in August 2009 when Heather Ridge residents approved the purchase



of the open space. He had a leadership role researching finance options and interfacing with attorneys and banks. He helped create budgets for golf operations, and developed organizational and staff positions to run the golf course.

Ray's internet and marketing skills helped generate much needed golf revenue. He spread the word that a "new golf course was in town" to dispel the old country club image. He put in countless hours and self-sacrifice to keep Heather Ridge as it was conceived — a golf course community.

Ray, thank you for all that you have done.

— Van Lewis

Letters

...from page 6

and Rosemaree comment on how excited they are to see all the golfers on the course, and how great it is to see Heather Ridge reviving.

(Everyone's been pleased to see the water on the last two days as well!) Rosemaree mentioned how much she loves the *Metro Matters* — reads it cover to cover every month — and saves all the issues. She even commented on the nice paper it is printed on.

I was sort of nervous about what everyone would think about dinner, since this is a crowd that was really used to what the restaurant was

when it was a private club. Back then, there were steaks and the like. But everyone just raved about the food. Between us, we ordered hamburgers and salad from the regular menu, plus entrees off the new dinner menu.

Rosemaree said her burger was just right, and she really liked the fries. We had a great time. Everyone in the crowd was so pleased to see how things were going.

So kudos to Rob (and I'll tell him as well the next time we see him). Kudos to all of you for all your hard work on this newsletter.

**Melissa Miller
Chimney Hill**

Be A Guest Writer: *Metro Matters* will be initiating a new section entitled "Guest Writers." You are invited to submit an article, 500 words or less, for acceptance in the next publication. Send to Bette Secord, Fairway 16, bettesecord@gmail.com; or Lynn Donaldson, LynnNeu@comcast.net or 13731 E. Hamilton Drive, Aurora, CO 80014

Letters to the Editor: Send or deliver your letters for *Metro Matters* to Bette Secord, Fairway 16, bettesecord@gmail.com; or Publisher Lynn Donaldson, 13731 E Hamilton Dr, Aurora, CO 80014; LynnNeu@comcast.net by the fifth of each month. Letters must be signed, dated and include the writer's address and phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity or space.



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Golf Club at Heather Ridge Monthly Update

www.golfclubatheatherridge.com



As I write this, the new pump station just came online, and is pumping 1,100 gallons of water through about 30 different sprinkler heads at the same time. It's a glorious sight! The irrigation project has been much more difficult and taken longer than expected, mostly due to Mother Nature being so tough the last few months.

First, there was no rain when it was needed. Then so much moisture came that the work had to stop for a number of days in May.

There has been one constant during this time period — the unsurpassed dedication of Bob Knutson, HR Golf Course superintendent, and his crew. Bob was here late into the night many times, making sure everything was working as holes were completed. He is pleased that the system is now up and running. Watering is being done from both wells. The

course is already bouncing back. There will be some clean up and repair work going on in the next couple of weeks, but the system is operational on the whole front and back nine again.

This summer, at The Golf Club at Heather Ridge, two day clinics will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. These clinics are designed to help you improve your game while in a group/social setting. The cost will be \$50 for both days. It includes roughly three hours of instruction between the two days.

The goal of these clinics throughout the summer will be to cover different areas of both the short and long game. Please sign up either in the Golf Shop or speak with Greg Burghart or Jordan Londer.

– Mike Ritter
Golf Pro

HR Men's Golf Club

May 28 Net Point Par Tournament

1st Flight

Gross	Trent Daum	\$75
1st Net	Bruce Larson	\$75
2nd Net	George Wahbeh	\$50

2nd Flight

1st Net	John Fortune	\$100
2nd Net	M Geppner	\$60
3rd Net	Harold Eagen	\$40

3rd Flight

1st Net	Larry Ricketts	\$100
2nd Net	Jerry Hensen	\$60
3rd Net	Mike Geppner	\$40

4th Flight

1st Net	Jack Eggleston	\$100
2nd Net	Don Blosser	\$60
3rd Net	Terry Bade	\$40

5th Flight

1st Net	Jim Gunderson	\$100
2nd Net	Morris Hoole	\$60
3rd Net	Don Copeland	\$40

Closest to the pin (\$30 each): #5 Roy Deitz;

#8 Dean Weber; #10 Larry Wagner; #14 Jerry Hensen.

June 4–5 Member/Member Tournament

1st Flight

1st	Barnes and Weber	\$100 each
2nd	Wahbeh and Traynor	\$60 each
3rd	Carpenter and Apodaca	\$40 each

2nd Flight

1st	Barela and Lash	\$100 each
2nd	Barrett and Fortune	\$60 each
3rd	Curzon and Palea	\$40 each

3rd Flight

1st	Kytle and Wallace	\$100 each
2nd	J Hensen and G White	\$60 each
3rd	Orr and Dietz	\$40 each

Closest to the pin (\$30 each): Saturday – #5 J. Henson team; #8 Barrett; #10 Corsaro; #14 Carpenter; Sunday – #5 Barnes team; #8 Schroeder; #10 S. Gonzales; #14 Arnold.

The best two rounds by a team in each flight on Saturday and on Sunday also won money (\$40 for each player for first; \$20 for each player for second.)

Safety Crime and Security Report in Heather Ridge

The following crime reports were obtained from Officer Mark Lowisz during the last two months, forwarded to HRCA and HR boards.

2nd week of May 2011 in the 2700 block of South Xanadu, someone came into the house during the night and stole money out of a purse.

Friday June 3, 2 pm — 2600 block of South Xanadu Way (Burgundy). Suspect knocked on doors to find if people are home. When confronted, said he was looking for a “Beverly” having a Honda Accord for sale in the newspaper. Reported to 911. Aurora PD after hearing description, confirmed it was an attempted burglary.

At one house, an owner found his conduct suspicious and called the police. They quickly arrived and took him into custody.

He was suspected of knocking on doors first. If no one answered, he would try to open the front door. If unlocked, he would burglarize it.

Moral of the story: *Keep all your doors and windows secured. If you have private security, call them and the police whenever there is any suspicious activity. Lastly, don't let anyone in you don't know.*

Sunday June 5, 11:30 pm in the 2400 block of South Victor Way. Robbery at gunpoint. Three men robbed a resident as he pulled into his garage. A gun was pointed at the resident and he gave them all of his money. They then shot the resident's back car window. As they pulled away in a late model white compact Toyota, the resident stepped out to get the license number. The robbers then shot at the resident.

The victim described how three young African-American men with tattoos confronted

him in his garage with drawn .40 caliber semi-automatic pistols and demanded his wallet (which had only \$4). Apparently that angered them, and one robber said, “You owe me a car window,” whereupon he shot out the victim's car window.

Post robbery investigation witnesses reported to the police that the robbers had followed the victim into Sausalito staying a distance back, driving with lights off. Once the victim parked in his garage with the door still open, they confronted him. It was fast, furious and frightening.

Moral of the story: *Please watch if anyone follows you into your neighborhood. Close your garage door immediately upon parking. If something looks suspicious, drive away and use your cell phone. And most importantly, don't confront suspicious cars or people — call the police.*

Crime Alert page. This page is presented as a service to residents of Heather Ridge. If you have something to report, please email Crime@HRMDco.org. Please include the HOA area, approximate address of the incident your name and phone number. Aurora police Police Area Representative (PAR) Officer Mark Lowisz, 303-739-1819 or mlowisz@auroragov.org, suggests this website: www.crimereports.com (enter zip 80014).

Additional Information, email addresses and phone numbers:

Denver Post YOURHUB.com

Police Blotter = <http://denver.yourhub.com/Aurora/stories/news/police-blotter>

In an Emergency, dial 9-1-1

For non-emergency police dispatch, dial 303-627-3100.

– Bette Secord and Van Lewis

Non-resident owners may have the magazine mailed for free. Email Bette Secord, bettesecord@gmail.com, with information. *Metro Matters* is also available online at uahr.org.

Reading with an eBook

I know lots of people, including myself, who love to hold a REAL book in their hands. However, when I got a Kindle electronic book reader three years ago, my opinion changed. The Kindle weighs 10 ounces, holds over 1,000 books and you can change the size of the print from very small to very large.

The best feature, in my opinion, is being able to order a book (from the 972,387 titles available) and have it appear on your screen in about one minute.

It is great when you travel. Yes, you can read on airplanes — except during takeoffs and landings. The battery is long lasting and easily recharged. The cost of a book varies. The price is most often set by the publisher. Lately the newest titles range between \$9.95 and \$12.95. This is less than the cost of one paperback. Once you buy the title, it stays on your machine until you delete it.

It's nearly a year since Amazon announced that sales of electronic books for its Kindle outnumbered sales of hardcover books. It's four months since a report from the Association of American Publishers relayed the startling news that ebook sales outpaced even paperback

sales for the first time on a monthly basis.

Barnes & Noble bookstores also have an eBook reader called the Nook. Several of my friends own this model and like it. Also available: the Sony Reader, the Aluratek LIBRE eBook Reader Pro, and Velocity Micro Cruz eReader. Apple's iPad also has books available. Each company is adding titles and features as competition and demand increase.

I've been reading lately that college texts will soon be available ONLY in this format. Over 100,000 free books are available from Project Gutenberg.

To locate new titles, I get the Tattered Cover's newsletter (www.tatteredcover.com) and also look at www.goodreads.com. I belong to two book discussion groups and get good suggestions from my friends who belong to these groups.

Ask your friends, neighbors and grandchildren about this new tool. It is definitely not going to eliminate books, but eBook readers may be changing the way we read them.

– Susan Bruce
Fairway 16

Did you know?

On Memorial weekend 1975, when Jim and Susan Bruce moved into their new house on Fairway 16, Yale was not paved beyond Parker Road. The only

place to eat nearby was Johnny's Dinner on Havana and Iliff. I-225 had not yet opened.

Friends of the Fairway Contest

Only three responses so far. If no further interest is shown, the contest will be put on hold until next year.

Dates: May 15 – August 15

Rules:

1. Garden must be visible from the golf course.
2. Permission must be obtained from the golf course/HOA before any new construction of a garden area.
3. An independent panel of judges will choose one winning participant from each of the 10 HOAs during the week of July 15.
4. Each winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate from Nick's Garden Store.



Register at bettesecord@gmail.com or call 303-695-9582.

Homeowners' Association News

Sausalito by Carol McCormick

Landscaping. The grounds look wonderful, thanks to all the rain in May. The community continues to plant new trees, replace old rock, add new plants at the entrances, and complete general maintenance. Some bushes are a little slow to leaf and blossom so be patient.

Security. There were two break-ins during May. It is imperative that everyone is alert and watchful of your own home and your neighbor's home. Both burglaries occurred during the day when the homeowners were not at home. Security has been increased, but it is up to each of us to be preemptive — take precautions to protect your property.

Here are some tips from some insurance companies for protecting your home

- Do not walk in on a crime. Call 9-1-1 if you think someone might be in your home. Do not confront an intruder. Leave immediately.
- Get an alarm. An alarm system doesn't make your doors any tighter, your windows any stronger — it just lets you know when someone's gotten in.
- Get to know your neighbors. Join a neighborhood watch program in your area or start one yourself. Neighbors are your best defense against burglary.
- Install good locks that have long screws in the door plate. The longer screws make it difficult to kick in the door. Broom handles in the window are a deterrent because it takes time to remove them.
- Install storm doors and windows with secure double locks.
- Find a new place for your valuables. Lingerie drawers, night stands and under mattresses are often not-so-secret hiding places for cash, jewelry and guns. Time is too important to a burglar to keep searching for your valuables, so keep them in places other people don't.

Keep your doors locked at all times, even if you are just working on your patio or inside your home. Do not leave your front door unlocked

or your garage door open.

Swimming Pools. The two pools have seen a lot of traffic since they opened on Memorial Day weekend. Sadly, the Worchester pool was vandalized. Once again, I need to remind everyone of the Rules and Regulations, listed on our website, <http://sausalitohoa.site-activation.com/legal.html>, for the Victor and Worchester swimming pools.

The rules are clearly stated and enforceable. Please read them in detail. If you rent your property, please be sure your renters have a copy of the pool rules.

The homeowners and renters at Sausalito are fortunate to have two swimming pools to use during the summer. The pools are only for homeowners and residents. A key is required to enter the pool. It is illegal to copy and/or give your pool key to anyone else. Children UNDER 16 MUST be accompanied AT ALL TIMES by an adult.

Pool gates are to remain closed and locked at all times. No food, alcohol, glass containers, or animals are allowed in the pool area.

Please be considerate of adult swimmers when you bring swimming toys for children. Residents love the pools, so let's be considerate of others. Then everyone can enjoy the outdoors!

Parking Issues. Please, only park in designated areas. The rules state that if you have a visitor/guest who will be parking overnight, you must call security in advance so the patrol can be notified. Covenant's phone/fax number is 303-552-9027.

Security. Security is always at the top of our list. Our security company continues to be diligent with their patrolling and tagging illegally parked cars.



See facing page

Sausalito

...from page 12

Trash Removal Days. Our regular trash removal days are every Tuesday. Recycling days are every other Tuesday.

ADVANCED NOTICE: The ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 8. Please mark your calendars.

Neighborhood Reminders. Children are out of school for the summer — so please slow down and observe the posted speed limit when driving through Sausalito. Pick up your pets'

waste. Take pride in our community. Call Tony, 720-535-9705, for your landscaping needs or to replace outside light bulbs and auto court flood lights. If Tony is unavailable, call Bill McKinney, 303-783-0394.

Monthly Meetings. The board meets at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at the Golf Club at Heather Ridge. Guests are welcome.

Cozy into a hammock with your favorite summer cool drink and a good book.

What a way to spend a summer day!

Burgundy

by Matt Mettler

New Light Rail Stop Expected to Cause Chaos for Months

Big changes are on the way with the addition of a new light rail station that's going to go in at Illiff and I-225. Rumor has it that the bridge that joins the north side of Yale to the other side of I-225 is going to be removed for at least a month while the bridge is reconstructed and widened. Besides being noisy and inconvenient, it is anticipated that this will increase the amount of traffic on Xanadu dramatically during the construction project.

As the asphalt turns. The Burgundy Board talked about the asphalt project, which is a major ongoing issue in the monthly meetings. A couple of proposals were submitted and examined. The board decided to get three estimates (two additional estimates) for drive F because it was the cheaper of the two proposals, \$51,784. (The proposal for drive E was \$62,184.) To be diligent, the board wanted two more estimates on drive F to be fair and accurate. Most likely, a decision about replacing driveway F will be made at one of the next two meetings. Your opinions about this so are welcome, if anybody has anything that they would like to say. Please feel free to come to the next meeting or send an e-mail.

Ready for some paint? The board talked about the painting situation and decided to move ahead with the painting the northern third of the Burgundy property.

Although no exact date has been set yet, the painting should have begun sometime after

June 11. It will probably be a work in progress for a period of about two weeks once work gets started. There will also be somebody going along before the painters, and doing minor repairs and fixing woodwork that needs prepping, before the paint gets sprayed on.

Speaking of Painting. A little party was held to paint the pool fence on May 22. It saved the HOA about \$1,000+. Hopefully that money can be used for something more important — like asphalt. Extra special thanks to everybody who volunteered and helped out — it made the job go so much faster! Thank you! Thank You!

"Mine Goes to 11 – That's one louder, isn't it?" I was asked to include in this newsletter a request that folks learn to turn down their stereos when entering or leaving driveways and parking areas on the property. This should also extend to your guests who come and visit. Please ask them to turn their stereos down when they arrive and depart.

As the former owner of a car stereo that would have vibrated every window in this complex simultaneously, I can totally appreciate that the car is one of the very last places left where you can actually rock your stereo but, Please, just don't do it here in the Burgundy parking lot.

Your gracious consideration for your neighbors is greatly appreciated. Thanks.



See Burgundy...page 14

Burgundy

...from page 13

Walk around property inspection results in warning letters, fines for several units.

McKinney Management recently walked around the property and looked at porches, patios and homes to make sure that there were none violating HOA rules. It looks like about five warning letters and three fine letters went out last month to owners regarding maintenance and cleanup, dog feces on the property, bicycles parked on front porches, objects that are not allowed, unauthorized vehicles and more.

Again, with spring and summer here — it is the perfect time to take a look around at the things you have on your front and back porch. Make sure that they comply with HOA rules.

The rules as stated in the HOA handbook are: (taken from page 9, section entitled: *Exteriors of units and common grounds*)

- Front porches must be free of all debris, shovels, brooms, motorcycles etc.

- The following items can be stored on your patio — proper patio furniture, grills, firewood, plants and planters intended to beautify patio areas, shovels and brooms.”

Pure and simple — if you comply with the rules — the management company will not send you warnings or fines.

Wanna Know More?

Go to BurgHOA.com

Annual Garage Sale had bargains and hot dogs! So far, Al from drive A, Pam from drive C, and myself were confirmed for attending the garage sale. The board decided to have free hot dogs to help generate more traffic and make the sale a little more fun. Hope you enjoyed the treasures, bargains and a free hot dog!

HindmanSanchez Report

Collecting money and filing receivership. The total outstanding debt right now is \$18,123.46, which is considerably better than what is was previously. HindmanSanchez is

currently working with four units in our community to try and devise a plan to get their debts paid.

HindmanSanchez is also working on putting unit 2667A into a receivership, which means that effectively the HOA will bypass the delinquent owner altogether. The HOA will collect the money that the tenants pay for rent through a receivership agent until owner's long-standing debt is paid off. The owner has had monies outstanding for more than a year and hasn't paid any monthly dues for the past 6 months. This will also give the HOA the ability to manage it and find tenants as though the HOA itself owned the property. Fines may be collected directly from the tenant's rent.

The best part is it will finally allow the HOA to hold any tenants who live in the unit to the same standards of conduct as all owners. The current owner has never cared a bit in the nearly 8 years I have lived in Burgundy. He/she never informed any of the renters about Burgundy rules.

Neighborhood Watch anyone? I received a letter recently from a homeowner asking about starting up a neighborhood watch group. This subject has come up many times. Various people have attempted to put together a neighborhood watch group for Burgundy. It always runs out of gas because people lose interest. Pretty soon nobody shows up for the meetings.

I will put it out there — asking if people are interested in neighborhood watch. Is there interest in participating? If you do, please send me an email so that I can forward it to other people who are interested. Maybe you can collectively get together and actually make it happen.

I'm certainly not opposed to neighborhood watch. I just believe that for it to truly be even remotely effective, you have to have a group of people on board who will commit for a long time. Otherwise, it just fizzles out. That's my two cents on that subject.

More HOA news on page 15

Celebrate Your Independence

Chimney Hill

by Pamela Akiri

Xeriscape Progress, Water Issues and Other Matters at Chimney Hill

I am delighted to report that Chimney Hill is on its way to a xeriscape transformation along the Xanadu portion of the community. Mark Cassalia, from Aurora Water, and Margee, from Neighborhood Services, joined Melissa Miller, board president, and myself to see that we are all “on the same page” about our landscape plan (designed by Ken Ball). Lana Gutnik joined us on site.

Mark opened the plan for each of the four zones and explained what everything would look like, and what modification would be made to the irrigation system. Mark answered all questions. Everyone was pleased. We also showed off our demonstration xeriscape strip on East Evans (see photo, page 17). Everything planted last year came back strong, and is growing fast and flowering profusely. You can't believe how much prettier it is than a patchy strip of turf!

The landscape contractor chosen to put in the grant design was JBK. Our regular landscaper, A Perfect Landscape, will do the maintenance on the project for the rest of the summer. Dan Wright, of JBK Landscape, was out at Chimney Hill as soon as he received a copy of the signed contract. They applied Round-up to the turf in the grant area on June 2.

Residents have been availing themselves of shrubs, flowers, trees and rocks in these zones. Passersby may have wondered whether the community was plagued by plant thieves! No, just saving the plants from destruction and donating to those who could use them. Major work started around June 16, because it takes Round-up about 14 days to kill the turf and prevent reseeding.

At Chimney Hill's May board meeting, it must be said that some residents were less than happy about losing turf. Questions were asked about the xeriscape areas. I answered them. Fortunately, the residents stayed for the entire meeting. Skip Cunningham presented an excellent summary of Heather Ridge South's experience with xeriscape. As they are in their fourth successful year, they have experience that



Chimney Hill can use. They converted 100,000 square feet of turf to xeriscape four years ago. Lowe's gave them the best price on plants. Garden builders, a local firm that they worked with and liked, did the planting. Smitty's Sprinklers installed SAM Rainbird heads. JBK monitors the water use and inspects the irrigation once a month. Skip said that JBK is the best of the four landscapers they have used. Their water savings from xeriscape and water conservation is a net 35 percent.

The zones on our grant application that were not funded are eligible for the rebate if we convert them from turf to xeriscape. I am hoping that one or two of those zones can be done this summer also. In addition, Chimney Hill is first on the list for the outdoor water audit by ReSource this June. Once they provide recommendations, any changes made on those recommendations will also be eligible

Water savings and other issues

Skip reported that indoor water conservation at Heather Ridge South was given a boost by adding their own rebate to every resident who had the FREE internal water audit by Aurora Water and installed a new low-flow toilet to replace the 5 gallon older model. This rebate was in addition to the Aurora Water rebate, which is now \$75. That means residents ended up paying very little for their new toilet. The board saved money on its water bill. They got about a third of their residents to make the change. Chimney Hill board members were quite interested in this suggestion.

Skip and Van Lewis also gave us a few other tips. One is to install digital water meters, which allow monitoring water use daily if desired. One is installed on each underground meter so it can be read above ground.

The board was enthusiastic about installing these meters. During the grant walk-through, Margee referred us to Judy Arffman, 303-326-8879. Not being one to let much moss grow, I

See *Chimney Hill...*page 16

Chimney Hill...from page 15

called and made an appointment for three “water smart readers” to be installed on June 6. This will only cost \$30 each, which will be added to the water bill. If you are interested in water conservation, you can take advantage of this great service from Aurora Water.

One resident has checked out another water-saving strategy: the pool. It turns out that the usual practice of emptying the pool in spring is not necessary. Aurora Water has confirmed that, although the water level must be lowered in the fall, it must remain in the pool to avoid freeze-thaw damage to the walls. If the pool is covered, no debris will get into it. In the spring you “shock” the water with chlorine, fill it, and run the filter. That could save a lot of water! Now I see the real meaning of the saying, “Necessity is the mother of invention.” Because of the HOA goals of saving money, being more efficient, and prioritizing what can be done and what can’t, the board is investigating more projects and finding lots of inventive solutions to tough problems.

Another money-saving idea that some of residents have suggested was also suggested by Skip and Van — have an on-site maintenance manager. Some residents have noted how nice Cobblestone Crossing looks. They use an on-site maintenance manager for landscape, minor jobs such as drains, signs, snow removal, overseeing chimney work, painting etc. and being available for inside jobs requested by residents. The going rate for Cobblestone and Heather Ridge South is “around \$20+ per hour.” Heather

Ridge South has had mixed experiences over the decades with on-site personnel. Their present maintenance person works four days a week and is considered “awesome” by its board.

The advantage is that someone is on site to check on projects and avoid expensive contracts on small projects, provide consistency, and have a known person available for household repairs (at owner cost). This does not eliminate the need for a management company to do all the administrative work, suggest reliable contractors for and oversee big jobs, act in an advisory capacity, etc.

If other HOAs have experience with on-site maintenance managers or “handymen,” I would be interested in hearing about your experience.

Heather Ridge Metropolitan District. Scott Dunham is Chimney Hill’s HRMD contact person. He always keeps the board up to date by summarizing the latest developments. One of the four items that particularly interested me was that the Heather Ridge Community Affairs (HRCA) wants to address golf ball damage to adjacent property. HRCA and UAHC have been requested by several homeowners to investigate the situation and see if they can come up with a proposal to present to the GCat board.

It is also clear to me that if the Metro District HOAs can group together for contracts — a suggestion Scott told us about in an earlier meeting — the HOAs could all save money. In many ways, all Heather Ridge communities are in the same boat. I think if information is shared and we stay open-minded about solutions, everyone will all benefit.

Heather Ridge South by Van Lewis

HRS – news “u” can use!

Semi-Annual Meeting, June 2. With almost 25 people in attendance, the board reviewed operations to date, answered many questions, and adjourned in one hour. By design, the semi-annual meeting is less formal and more user-friendly than the annual one. It is a chance for owners to do most of the talking without a formal agenda. In contrast, annual meetings are agenda driven — emphasizing budgets,

committee reports, and operations.

There was no “big news or shocking events” at the semi-annual meeting due to the effectiveness of *Metro Matters*. The magazine has great community support and utility by our residents, especially reading about other HOAs. Knowing



See Heather Ridge South...page 18



Xeriscape at Chimney Hill

Left: Flowers planted last year, returned on schedule this year.

Below: Demonstration area, located on East Evans in Chimney Hill, that incorporates xeriscaping to reduce water usage on common ground areas.



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Heather Ridge South...from page 16

how others deal with common problems gives a fresh and broad perspective to all HOA operations. With 10 HOAs in the HRMD, the *Metro Matters* newsletters can be very informative.

Summer Luau Party, July 16. As the annual summertime BBQ approaches, fliers and signs will be posted as reminders. RSVP to Sue Daigle, Westwind 303-369-1800 (x123). Doing so will get you in for \$5 versus \$7 per person. (Kids under 16 — no charge.)

For 10 years, the luau has featured a whole BBQ pig, chicken, brats, corn and side dishes brought by residents. Stormy weather is always a possibility. So if it happens, everyone moves into the clubhouse where the party picks up again. As they say in Iowa, Nebraska, or Kansas — a “good time will be had by all.” Ya’ll come!

New HOA General Insurance Policy. HRS now has a new insurance carrier, MiddleOak. The primary insurance company is Van Gilder, who by collecting bids and research, recommended MiddleOak above all others. Not only did they provide the “must have \$5,000 deductible per claim clause,” it has better coverage than previously experienced. Please visit Westwind’s www.westwindmanagement.com for more details. (Once there, click Homeowner’s Resources).

If you are buying or refinancing a HRS home, you will need a copy of the carrier’s policy. Our new general policy doesn’t mean dropping your private HO-6 policy. If you don’t have an HO-6 policy, then you are exposed to liabilities and losses beyond the general coverage. Please contact your insurance agent today for more details!

Security and Safety Issues. Our security company’s name is Covenant Security Services, and they patrol here and in other nearby communities. Many of their patrol officers are retired police who bring a wealth of experience to their jobs. Always armed, they provide an extra layer of service and safety not obtainable from Aurora Police. In particular, they monitor HRS parking, open garage doors, unusual circumstances or people, and

pool/clubhouse activities. The board has been pleased with their services, especially their flexible hours.

Parking issues. Vehicles parked outside of garages makes HRS look congested and, in some places, a virtual parking lot. If you live in such areas, please scream, shout and stomp to get your frustrations to Westwind. The present parking policy is a mix of board oversight and citizen activism. If you have parking issues, then the board needs to hear from you. Please read HRS Rules and Regulations before parking outside your garage.

Complaints about pets. Please walk them on a leash and pickup after them — they would do the same for you! Your front or back patio areas are not sanitation dump sites, so don’t hose animal waste off into common areas or neighbors. This is a serious health issue, and the board will vigorously pursue violators. Please report to Westwind any violators. If pets are noisy or disruptive, then neighbors need to contact Aurora Animal Control for help. Please keep Westwind informed.

Neighbor problems. If neighbors are not getting along and no community rules or regulations are broken, then it is a private matter between the feuding neighbors. Unless community rules are involved, the HOA board is restricted from getting involved. The HOA isn’t a “marriage counselor” between feuding parties, so private legal counsel might be necessary. In some cases, the City of Aurora may mediate a settlement. As always, please let Westwind know.

Watering issues. HRS prohibits washing a car at home, even if you use imported bottled water. Why? Because the act alone sends the wrong signal that washing is okay. As for watering flowerbeds and lawns — you can’t leave a hose or sprinkler unattended. It’s just that simple. If you want to water, please plan to be there! Otherwise, you will be cited.

Have you noticed? The HOA repainted units 2869-71-73-75 on South Xanadu Way. It looks terrific! In fact, it looked so good the board discussed painting the entire neighborhood. The conclusion was “no” for now. The

See Heather Ridge South...page 23

Heather Ridge Metro Matters, July 2011

Book Review: *Clara and Mr. Tiffany* by Susan Vreeland

This historical novel centers on Clara Driscoll, a worker in Louis Comfort Tiffany's glass factory in New York City. The years covered are 1892–1908.

Clara, a young widow, returns to her job in the women's workshop. Married women were not given jobs. She simultaneously moves into an Irishwoman's boarding house as she has very little money. Her talent lies in selecting colors for Mr. Tiffany's large stained glass windows that were being installed in churches and private homes.

She is in charge of hiring immigrant girls to draft a pattern, then cut the pieces of glass into the exact shapes for the windows. Most of the girls come from a nearby art school, but Clara tutors talented newcomers.

Her workshop grows to 26 employees with many different nationalities represented. Tiffany designed the windows and won critical acclaim (and orders) at the 1883 Columbian Exposition in Chicago and the Paris Exposition.

Clara's boarding house friends help her deal with accounting duties and personal problems presented by her workers. Together they explore the growing New York City on bicycles, ride one of the first subways and visit the first skyscraper. Along the way you learn the many steps necessary to make a big window. Vreeland explains why the unions, dominated by men, dislike the female workers.

Clara develops a strong friendship with Tiffany. He trusts her artistic instincts. When she proposes a stained glass lampshade, he encourages her. His company had been struggling financially and he felt a turn towards the "decorative arts" would provide a product that people "on the way up" could afford and also enjoy a taste of fine art.

The three struggles in this novel are:

**Love versus art — Will Clara give up her job for marriage?

**Art versus commerce — Should an artist make art or items that will sell?

**Unions versus women — This is the heart of the story. Clara leads the way for her girls.

When the lampshade is a big success, Clara is still not given any credit or additional money for her designs.

Susan Vreeland, a 30-year San Diego high school English teacher, is an excellent researcher. She used Clara's letters to her mother and sister, which were discovered in 2005, to develop this book. A 2007 exhibit at the New York Historical Society was useful for background material. This slice of history comes alive in this novel. It tells a part of women's history in the work force.

The richest Tiffany, of course, was Charles Tiffany, Louis's brother, who started Tiffany jewelry stores.

My only complaint with this book is the lack of any color plates to show the marvelous work. Published by Random House, 2010, \$26.

– Susan Bruce
Fairway 16

Other books by Susan Vreeland:

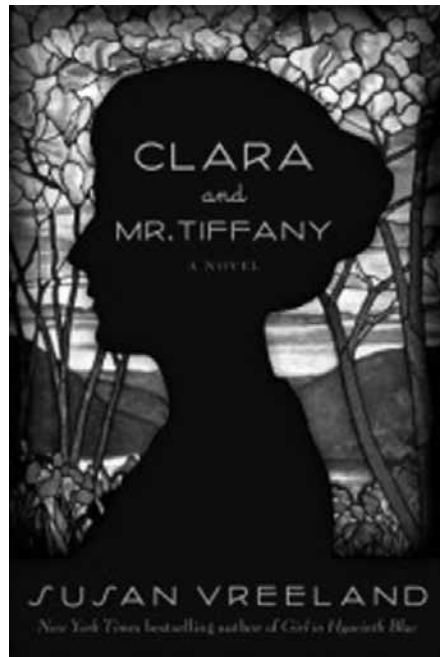
Girl in Hyacinth Blue — based on the character in a Vermeer painting

Luncheon of the Boating Party — based on the characters in a Renoir painting

Passion of Artemisia — the life of 17th century female painter Artemisia Gentileschi

Forest Lover — about American artist Emily Carr who was one of the early modern artists

What Love Sees — a biographical book about a couple who are both blind



Who's Who?

Lynn Donaldson is the publisher and chief editor of *Metro Matters* magazine.

Q. Lynn, are you a Denver native?

A. No. I was reared in Wichita, Kansas, for 15 years. My family moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where I attended high school.

Q. Would you tell me a little about your educational background?

A. I received my first college degree from Duke University and my Ph.D. in Neurobiology from the University of California at Irvine. Nottingham, England, was my next stop for post-doctoral research, funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Association. And, in 1995, I earned an MBA from the College of William and Mary.

Q. Can you tell me a little bit about your career history?

A. I spent several years teaching and doing research at the University of Iowa.

In 1983, I joined the army to do research at a medical institute located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. After 3 years, I left that job, but when another one did not come immediately, I was put on active duty for six months with the reserve command I was joining. My husband to be, Bob Neu, always says that he "took me off the streets and gave me a job."

The 97th Army Reserve Command needed someone to establish the first HIV screening program for the reserves in 1986. LTC Neu thought I could

do that job. For more than 100 reserve units throughout the East coast, from Florida to New York, that meant I coordinated sending educators and scheduling a contractor to do the blood draw with weekend drills for the units. Then, if someone was positive, a second test had to be scheduled. If someone tested positive twice, a doctor and chaplain were sent to notify the soldier and his/her commander — all without inadvertently violating the citizen soldier's privacy.

I stayed in the reserves while I went to work for "beltway bandits" around Washington, D.C., supporting contracts with the Agency for International Development (AID), NASA, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Center for Disease



Editor and publisher Lynn Donaldson with her father, Bob Donaldson, at the Heather Gardens ground-breaking for a new clubhouse.

Control (CDC), Air Force, Army and more.

In 1991, my reserve unit was activated during Operation Desert Storm, the first Iraq war. The unit backfilled Walter Reed Army Medical Center in D.C. I worked in the contracting group, from which I knew when the ground war started because my group was ordering supplies that would be needed by the soldiers after 5 pm, asking companies to ship that night to Fort Jackson, Louisiana, for shipping in country the following day.

By the time I left the army reserves after 10.5 years, I was a major.

Q. I hear that you and your husband have been married for 22 years?

A. Yes, we married in 1988 just after he retired from active duty.

Q. What brought you to Denver?

A. My husband's job brought us here. It did not hurt that my parents live in Aurora.

Q. How in the world did a Neurobiologist, military contractor become interested in publishing?

A. My parents started Donaldsons, Inc. in 1991 and began publishing *Heather 'n Yon* for Heather Gardens. In 1997, they wanted to phase out of the monthly deadline, so I took over the company. I added *Windsor World* for Windsor Gardens and a quarterly magazine *Spotlight*, for Eastern Star Masonic Retirement Home.

Sometimes I wonder why

See Donaldson...page 23

Heather Ridge

Photo Album



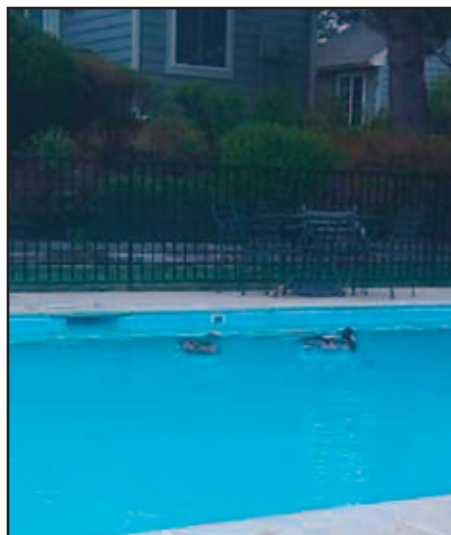
Above and right: Several HR residents attended the meeting with Arapahoe County Assessor Corbin Sakdol on May 24 in the Banquet Room of the HR Clubhouse. Appeals on the assessed value of their homes had to be filed by June 1.



Left and below: HR's feathered friends (and water birds) enjoy multiple locations for swimming. Left:



A pond on the golf course. Below: Two mallard ducks thought a swimming pool was just the right place!



"OUT-TO-LUNCH-BUNCH"

Any HR Metro District resident who would be interested in participating in a monthly lunch gathering at Noonan's Tavern, to meet old and new friends, please contact: Ginny Lewis, ginny.lewis@comcast.net
303-337-6118
See you
July 21.



June Calendar at Heather Ridge

Sun 19	Happy Father's Day BBQ on Billy Baroo's Patio
Tue 21	First Day of Summer
Thu 23	HR Boards – Annual Cocktail Party Banquet Room 5 pm
Fri 24	Magic Moments Big Band 7:30 pm Banquet Room: \$10 admission, one free drink
Mon 27	Ladies 18-Hole Member/Guest

Have Fun in Aurora: July

• 42nd Annual Triple Crown Fireworks Softball Tournament, June 25–July 3. This national women's fast-pitch tournament brings 190 teams to Aurora Sports, Olympic, Highline and Horsehoe parks, where hundreds of college coaches looking for new recruits will check out these top-ranked players from across the United States. Games are open to the public. Visit www.cofireworks.com for details.

• 4th of July Spectacular, July 4. 15151 E Alameda Parkway. Live music and activities, 5–9:30 pm. Fireworks at 9:30. Parking permitted at Town Center of Aurora, Community College of Aurora and Aurora City Place. Tune into Studio 1430 KEZW for accompanying music. 303-326-8386 or Auroragov.org/events.

• Banks in Harmony Summer Concerts, 6:30–8 pm. Free admission. Food sold on site. 303-344-1500 or auroragov.org/concerts.

June 23: Papa Juke (Blues, Soul and Rock) at Bicentennial Park, 13655 E Alameda Ave.

June 30: Queen City Jazz Band (Dixieland Jazz) Del Mar Park, 12000 East 6th Ave.

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July Calendar at Heather Ridge

	Tournament	8 am
Sun 3	BBQ Extravaganza HR Driving Range	3:30 pm
Mon 4	Independence Day Holiday	
Tue 5	UAHR Meeting	6 pm
Wed 6	Zip Night at Noonan's	
Tue 12	HRCA Meeting	6 pm
Wed 13	Sausalito Board Meeting Golf Club at HR Zip Night at Noonan's	6:30 pm
Wed 20	Zip Night at Noonan's	
Thu 21	HRMD Board Meeting Golf Club at Heather Ridge	6 pm
Wed 27	Zip Night at Noonan's Movie Night at Noonan's	6 pm
Thu 28	Ward IV Meeting Fire Station II (2291 South Joliet St. at East Iliff Ave.)	7–9 pm

July 7: Deja Blue (Variety/Classic Rock) Red-tailed Hawk Park, 23701 E. Hinsdale Way

July 14: 17th Avenue All Stars (1950s Rock and Roll) Utah Park, 1800 S. Peoria St.

July 21: The Modniks (Hits of the 1960s) Utah Park.

July 28: Buckstein (Country Rock) Utah Park.

Aug. 4: Pan Jumbies (Calypso/Caribbean) Meadowood Park, 3054 S. Laredo St.

• Arapahoe County Fair, July 20–24, fairgrounds 25690 E Quincy Ave. Entertainment, carnival rides, rodeo, animals. Fireworks on July 22 and 23. www.arapahoecountyfair.com

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Heather Ridge South...from page 18

original paint on those units was peeling due to defective manufacturing. Baked on at the factory, the paint after 18 years started to peel and fade. Analysis revealed no paint primer was used. Because the manufacturer is long gone, the case is closed. For now, painting any other buildings will be on a case-by-case decision. The estimated cost is \$138,000 to paint the entire community. Once done, HRS would paint about every 10 years.

The clubhouse front area was re-landscaped, tearing out old junipers, bushes and rock for a fresh new appearance. Also, large flagstones now replace the old front porch carpet for a significant improvement.

Donaldson...from page 20

I took on work that requires producing a "term paper" on a monthly schedule with firm deadlines.

I also assist people with their computers: upgrading, repairing software and teaching how to do various programs.

The most current addition to my publications was *Metro Matters* for Heather Ridge. It has been really exciting for me to see how the magazine has evolved over the last 12 months. I hope it continues to provide service to the Heather Ridge community. Can I make a pitch here that residents support the advertisers? It's what makes publications like this survive and thrive.

Lastly, the pool area has a new BBQ gas grill for anyone wanting to use it. Please thank Clubhouse Chairwoman Linda Hull for that one. Wayne put it together correctly without reading the instructions. Way to go, Wayne!

Trash-recycling program is a big hit. Alpine brings a special truck every two weeks to collect recyclable trash, and HRS has been filling it to the brim. In fact, the "other trash truck" is now under-utilized.

Remember to put your trash out no earlier than 6 pm on Monday, and retrieve your containers no later than 6 pm after Tuesday's pickup. If Alpine leaves trash behind, you must bring it inside your garage — you can't "divorce" it once it is placed outside for pickup.

Q. What are your other interests?

A. When I am not working on the publications, I enjoy golfing, biking, swimming, reading and cooking. Recent authors have been Tami Hoag, J.D. Robb and Jodi Picoult. My husband is a golfer, avid reader and he likes to eat!

— **Bette Secord**

E-cycle Event: July 17, 9 am–1 pm, Aurora Municipal Center, 15151 E Alameda Parkway, South Parking Lot, 303-739-7173. Bring DVD players, computers, VCRs, stereos, printers, fax machines, cell phones, microwaves, small appliances and more to be recycled by Metech International. The cost for most items is \$2 each (\$15 most televisions, \$10 computer monitors).

Classified Ads

Services

Don't stress, let us clean the mess. Home and condo cleaning. Reasonable rates. References available. Call Sandra: 303-923-3188, 720-569-9436; or Betty: 720-532-0118.

Clutter Busters. Are you ready to get decluttered and orga-

nized? Professional organizer available. Reasonable prices. Please call Rhonda, 303-680-6794.

Clean as You Need Cleaning Service. Maintain your condo or townhome with low rates! Prices starting at \$25–35 for first level. Free up your day. Call for an appointment. 15 years experience. Call Cheryl, 303-752-3981.

Classified advertising: 30¢ per word. Minimum of \$6 (20 words). Deadline is the 5th of each month. Write your ad and deliver with a check payable to Donaldsons, Inc., 13731 E Hamilton Dr., Aurora, CO 80014. Keep ads short (50 word maximum). Publication does not imply endorsement. Call Lynn, 303-766-8649, LynnNeu@comcast.net

Heather Ridge Metropolitan District

Metro Matters

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