

Heather Ridge Metro Matters

VOLUME 3

NOVEMBER 2012

NUMBER 5

Yale Bridge Opens Ahead of Schedule

The Regional Transportation District (RTD), Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and SEMA Construction celebrated the reopening of the Yale Avenue Bridge over I-225 two months early. The bridge was rebuilt to make room for the expansion of the I-225 Light Rail and the widening of the highway. A ribbon-cutting ceremony and community walk across the bridge was held on Oct. 5.



"This is a great milestone for FasTracks and we appreciate our partnership with CDOT in bringing this project in ahead of schedule," said Tom Toblassen, RTD Board Director. "This is a major step in our progress to completing the entire I-225 Rail Line."

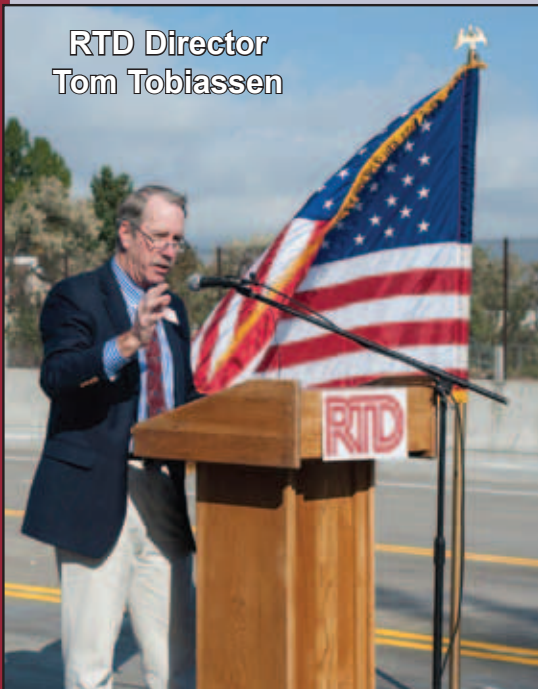
SEMA is building the I-225 light rail segment from Nine Mile to Iliff. The remainder of the project from Iliff to Peoria/Smith Station will be constructed by Kiewit Infrastructure Co. This summer, the RTD Board of Directors formally approved Kiewit's proposal to complete the I-225 Light Rail Line to Peoria by November 2015. The line would open in mid-2016 after about six months of testing.

The I-225 Rail Line project is part of RTD's FasTracks program. It is a 10.5-mile light rail extension that will travel through the City of Aurora and a small section of Denver. The line will connect the existing Southeast Light Rail Line at the Nine Mile Station with the planned East Rail Line at the Peoria/Smith Station, and will include eight stations.

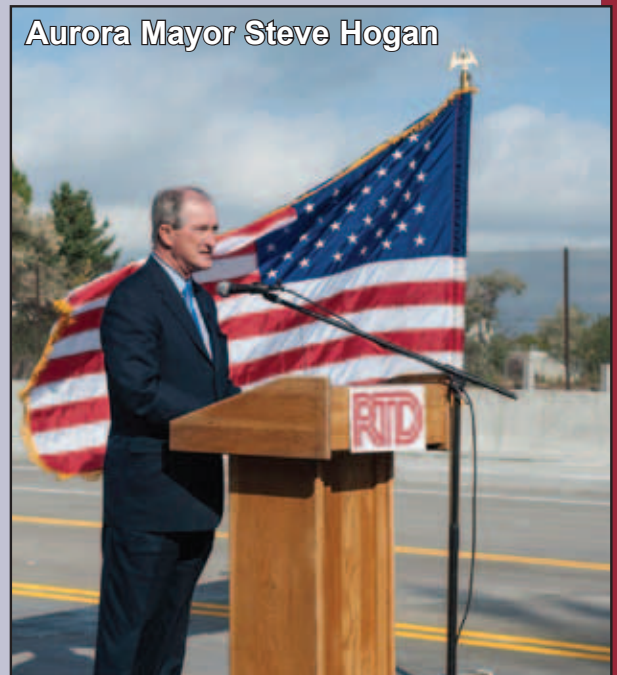
RTD's FasTracks transit expansion program will build 122 miles of commuter rail and light rail, 18 miles of bus rapid transit service, add 21,000 new parking spaces,

redevelop Denver Union Station and redirect bus service to better connect the eight-county District.

RTD Director
Tom Toblassen



Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan



More photos on page 8

Photos by Jeannie Girard

Aurora police offers reward

Aurora Police are investigating the death of a man found in the morning on Monday, Oct. 1, as a homicide. Police were called to the 11900 block of East Cornell Circle, just after 8 am, on a report of a "man down." Officers first to arrive found an unresponsive male outside of the address who was pronounced deceased at the scene.

Homicide investigators were called out since the death appeared suspicious at the time and nothing could be ruled out. On Oct. 3, an autopsy was performed by the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office who ruled the death a homicide. Identification of the victim will be made by the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office.

No arrests have been made in this case. Aurora Police are asking anyone with information on this homicide to call Detective Mark Yacano at 303-739-6090. You can also provide information on this case and remain anonymous by calling CRIME STOPPERS, 720-913-STOP (7867). You may be eligible to earn a reward of up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000).

CONTACT: Officer Frank Fania, PIO, 303-739-6022

NATURE: Coroner Rules Death a Homicide

CASE NUMBER: 12-38454

Spice up your life a little!

UAHR First Annual Chili Cookoff

Saturday, Nov. 10, 1-5 pm, at the Fairway 16 Clubhouse

Tickets are \$1 per sample or \$5 for a 6 sample pack. There will be prizes and awards. Watch for fliers in your neighborhood and further details in HOA newsletters, or contact Pam Bjerke, 303-695-9447, or Josie Spencer, 303-671-5637.

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

Metro District Board Members

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

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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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HOAs in the United Association of Heather Ridge:

(UAHR is the "watch dog" of the HRMD)
President Josie Spencer (Heather Ridge South)
Vice President Pam Bjerke (Burgundy)
Burgundy, burghoa.com
Chimney Hill
Cobblestone
Cobblestone Crossing
Double Tree
Fairway 16
Heather Ridge South, Heatherridgesouth.com
Sausalito, sausalitohoa.com
Strawberry, strawberryhoa.com
website: www.uahr.org

Managers, Golf Club at Heather Ridge (GCat)

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

Board: President Loren Janulewicz (Men's Club), Secretary Vic Evans (Men's Club), Treasurer Larry Ransford (Cobblestone Crossing), John Hartnett (Men's Club) and Irene Young (Women's Club)
website: www.golfclubatheatheridge.com

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(cindycrockett5@gmail.com)

Neighborhood Watch

To all Area Coordinators, Block Captains and Residents. Please do not miss the last Neighborhood Watch Meeting of 2012. It will be held at 6:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 14 at the Burgundy Clubhouse, 2685 S. Xanadu Way.

As always, there will be a speaker. Please join in this last meeting of the year.

Even though the Heather Ridge communities have been relatively free from crime this past season, it has been occurring all around us! I urge you, **Do Not** become complacent! As soon as residents become complacent, criminals win! There have been garage break-ins and most recently a shooting, not in UAHR, but in a Heather Ridge community. It is your duty and responsibility to be observant as a resident, whether you are an owner or a renter!

Drop it, Lock it, Stop It. An open garage is an invitation to criminals. To help reduce your potential for being victimized, follow these easy steps;

- **Drop It.** Dropping your garage door is the first line of defense against unwanted entry into your home.

- **Lock It.** Locking the door that leads from your garage into your home reduces unwanted entry. Doors should be equipped with one-inch deadbolt locks.

- **Stop It.** Don't make crime easy. It only takes a minute to secure your home.

For those who have carports or open spaces — never leave your car doors unlocked when unattended.

Do Not Leave valuables in your car when you leave it. It only takes minutes for a criminal to open an unlocked car and remove valuables!

Be Alert and Be Cognizant. Do not ever be hesitant about making a call to 911 or the non emergency phone, 303-627-3100. Par Officer Mark Lowisz can be reached at 303-739-1819. If you see something that just seems not to be right, it probably isn't.

And, as always, a BIG THANKS goes out to Area Coordinators and Block Captains who are out there

doing volunteer work for Heather Ridge residents to try to keep the communities crime free. Please give a "shout out" to them when you see them!

See you Wednesday, Nov. 14.

– **Bev Brown**

Head Area Coordinator for UAHR

• • •

Eastridge Neighborhood Watch reports: "Political signs are being vandalized or stolen over a wide area right now. Please see the below message regarding this issue in Dam West. I've also heard it's been happening in neighborhoods to the north of Area 11. Last night, a number of signs were destroyed in Eastridge. The vandalism is not party specific. If anyone's experienced any property damage associated with political signs being vandalized, please let me know."

– **Dean Semelbauer**

Head Area Coordinator

Aurora Area 11 Neighborhood Watch

303-472-8077

See *Neighborhood Watch...page 14*

Wireless AMBER Alerts™: FAQ

What is the Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative?

The national Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative is a voluntary partnership between the wireless industry, the United States Department of Justice, and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), to distribute AMBER Alerts to wireless subscribers who opt in to receive the messages and are able to receive text messages on their wireless devices.

Why was the Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative created?

Statistics show the first three hours after a child's abduction are most critical to recovery efforts. Recognizing that wireless technology can help galvanize communities to assist law enforcement in the search for and return of the child, the membership of CTIA-The Wireless Association®, The Wireless Foundation, the United States Department of Justice and

the NCMEC are honored to offer the Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative.

By combining the efforts of the wireless industry with NCMEC and law enforcement agencies, the Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative will be a catalyst for the more than 200 million wireless subscribers to aid in the return of an abducted child.

What is the history of the AMBER Alert program?

President Bush authorized the national AMBER Alert program as part of the PROTECT Act signed in 2003. The law formally established the federal government's role in the AMBER Alert program, appointing the Department of Justice (DOJ) as the agency responsible for coordinating AMBER Alerts on the national level. DOJ has officially partnered with NCMEC, authorizing them as the agent that coordinates and disseminates AMBER Alerts to secondary distributors.

AMBER stands for "America's

Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response" and was created in 1997 when Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system.

NCMEC currently says 260+ children have been recovered.

When will Wireless AMBER Alerts be distributed to subscribers?

NCMEC will initiate the transmission of AMBER Alerts to wireless carriers after law enforcement has issued the alert and the following criteria, recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice, have been met:

- There is reasonable belief by law enforcement that an abduction has occurred.

- The abduction is of a child age 17 years or younger.

- The law enforcement agency believes that the child is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.

- There is enough descriptive

See *Amber Alerts...page 12*



Pete Traynor
 Double Tree
 303-877-9538

PeteTraynor@ReMax.net

Market Update at Heather Ridge

One look at this month's sales inventory shows an unbalanced market. As inventory levels decline for the entire metro Denver market, homes for sale under \$200,000 are flying off the market. Since most homes in Heather Ridge are below that figure, it's not surprising to see only six homes for sale. What is pleasing is the number of homes under contract — 16. This indicates a strong and active market!

Why aren't there more homes for sale? One reason is the economy — fears that the recovery will falter — so homeowners play it safe and stay put! Another is home equity — not enough to justify sales and replacement costs. Political issues — who will govern America for the next four years? All these and other issues are suppressing inventory levels as more buyers look for "affordable homes."



Van Lewis
 Heather Ridge South
 303-550-1362
van@vanlewis.com

Another reason sellers are holding back is their market knowledge — fears that no one can get a mortgage, that home values are stagnant, and expensive home improvements before your home will sell. Pete and Van offer "no commitment" interviews to help sellers learn about market conditions including lender pre-qualification. If appropriate, they will show prospective sellers replacement homes "to see, feel, and touch" today's market.

Recently, Pete and Van have visited a number of Heather Ridge homes to help owners with remodeling or updating issues. Their goal is to get the "most bang for the buck" from minor to major changes — carpet, paint, appliances, or cabinets." Getting ready to sell doesn't have to be expensive, but it must be effective. Please count on Pete's and Van's vast experiences and active involvement in today's market for your best options.

Their families have lived in Heather Ridge for over 25 years. Between Pete and Van, they have more than 70 years real estate experience with deep roots in making Heather Ridge a better place to live. Active in their own HOAs and the Heather Ridge Metropolitan District, they are trying to make a difference for everyone.

New Listing – 2871 S Xanadu Way \$185,000 Heather Ridge South

The owner is remodeling this unit to increase market value. Having been a rental for decades, it needs total updating, including the kitchen. This is the popular 1,633 sq-ft vaulted two-story model with three bedrooms up, three bathrooms, a full basement and a 2-car attached garage. The owner had a number of options in selling — "as is" with no improvements; some improvements; or a remodel that includes removing the kitchen-dining room wall. This model also exists in Fairway 16. To see a work in progress and perhaps add a "personal touch" to your new home, please call for an appointment.

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

Sold in Heather Ridge Sept. 1–Oct. 16

HOA	Sold \$	No.	Street	Be/Ba	SqFt	Gar/Spaces	Style
Strawberry I	\$89,500	2618	S Xanadu Way A	2 - 2	1,144	1-Carport	2 Story
Heather Ridge South	\$149,500	2882	S Wheeling Way	3 - 3	1,633	2-Garage,Att	2 Story

Homes for Sale in Heather Ridge, New Listings July 1–Sept. 11

HOA	Price	No.	Street	Be/Ba	SqFt	Gar/Spaces	Style
Cobblestone	\$119,950	13412	E Asbury Dr	2 - 2	1,208	2-Garage,Off Street	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$122,900	2660	S Xanadu Way A	2 - 2	1,144	1-Carport	2 Story
Fairway 16	\$140,000	2416	S Vaughn Way A	2 - 2	1,365	2-Garage,Att	Ranch
Sausalito	\$149,950	2511	S Worchester Ct A	2 - 2	1,273	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Heather Ridge South	\$169,900	2756	S Xanadu Way	3 - 3	1,462	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Country Club Ridge	\$212,000	2260	S Vaughn Way 103	2 - 3	1,485	2-Garage,Att	Ranch

For more information, call Pete or Van!

Homes Under Contract in September–October

HOA	Price	No.	Street	Bed/Ba	SqFt	Gar/Spaces	Style
Strawberry I	\$59,500	13631	E Yale Ave B	1 - 1	856	1-Carport	2 Story
Burgundy	\$60,000	2485	S Xanadu Way A	2 - 2	1,091	None	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$79,900	2664	S Xanadu Way A	2 - 2	1,144	None	2 Story
Cobblestone	\$89,900	2141	S Victor St D	2 - 2	1,208	1-Reserved	2 Story
Cobblestone	\$90,000	2101	S Victor St A	2 - 2	1,208	1-Garage, Det	2 Story
Strawberry II	\$95,000	2479	S Xanadu Way C	2 - 2	1,091	1-Reserved	2 Story
Sausalito	\$99,900	2490	S Worchester Ct A	2 - 3	1,273	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Sausalito	\$100,000	2458	S Victor St	2 - 3	1,273	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Cobblestone	\$129,900	2132	S Victor St C	2 - 2	1,392	1-Off Street	2 Story
Burgundy	\$134,900	2645	S Xanadu Way C	3 - 2	1,315	Off Street	Ranch
Burgundy	\$144,900	2623	S Xanadu Way F	2 - 3	1,315	2-Garage,Det,Resv	2 Story
Country Club Ridge	\$150,000	2280	S Vaughn Way 203	2 - 3	1,693	1-Garage, Att	Ranch
Fairway 16	\$150,000	2518	S Vaughn Way B	2 - 3	882	2-Garage,Att	Ranch
Sausalito	\$150,000	2459	S Worchester Ct D	2 - 3	1,230	2-Garage,Att	Ranch
Heather Ridge S	\$151,000	2855	S Xanadu Way	3 - 4	1,462	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Country Club Ridge	\$185,000	2240	S Vaughn Way 201	2 - 2	1,476	1-Garage,Att	Ranch

Van Lewis: Re/Max Alliance, 303-550-1362; van@vanlewis.com
Pete Traynor: Re/Max Masters, 303-877-9538, PeteTraynor@ReMax.net



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Homeowners' Association News

Fairway 16 by Susan Bruce

Clubhouse. Rent the clubhouse for your holiday party. There is an artificial tree with lights for a festive look. No need to clean your house. There is lots of parking for your guests. Contact Ed or Joanne to reserve a date.

Hoses. Don't forget to unhook your hoses outside. If you have an exterior water line, drain it. The landscape company will take care of raking up the leaves once they've all fallen.

Bus Route 131. I have contacted Tom Tobiassen, RTD Director, to express concern about this bus on the streets of Fairway 16. He reported that routes are evaluated three times a year. He has placed this route on the schedule to be evaluated and will let us know when that will be. Residents will need to attend that meeting and voice their concerns about safety. Be thinking of exact incidents you have witnessed or comments that can be made to RTD to change this route.

Doubletree residents are also concerned and will attend.

Comcast. If you are a Comcast subscriber, please call Comcast if you have any problems with your phone, internet or television service. They are responsible for

repairing outside underground lines.

Chili Cookoff. Plan to support the UAHR (United Associations of Heather Ridge) on Saturday, Nov. 10 for chili, meeting your neighbors and enjoying Fairway 16 clubhouse. Details will be sent out. **WHO** is the best chili cook in Fairway 16?

Vote. Don't forget to vote! Aurora, Colorado, and the United States need your input.

Trees and Gutters. Large trees will be trimmed in November and then the gutters will be cleaned. Volunteers will continue to fill the dumpster with trimmings from trees and bushes.

Metro Matters. Please pick up your copy from the white box attached to your mailbox. It will no longer be mailed to residents. It will still be mailed to nonresident owners. Look for a new issue around the first of each month. Thanks to Pinky Gonzales, board member, for attaching the boxes.



Heather Ridge South by Van Lewis

Dates to remember. The Annual Meeting will be 7 pm Tuesday, Dec. 4, in the HR Clubhouse. The notice and agenda will be mailed to all property owners only.

The Holiday Prime Rib Dinner for all HRS residents will be 6 pm Saturday, Dec 8, for cocktails, and dinner at 7. There will be a post dinner drawing for gifts of wine, holiday baskets, and other favorites.

On Dec 1, the annual clubhouse decoration party will be held. This is a fun pot-luck dinner gathering full of holiday spirits to make that "under the mistletoe kiss" easier. To join the festivities, contact Janelle at Westwind.

Budget for 2013. At this writing (Oct 12), the budget has not been approved. The October board meeting will review a proposed budget, and adopt it if appropriate. In some past years, budgets have been approved in November. Owners will receive notice and copies of the new budget for 2013 by early December.

The board makes every effort to hold down operational costs, grow Reserves, and maintain a community that everyone can be proud to live in. To insure future solvency, a Reserve Study Engineering Report was performed in 2012. Available upon request, it details present and future Reserves needed to meet maintenance requirements. At this time, the goal is \$3 million dollars

in Reserves by year 2046 — that's when today's new roof will need replacement, along with hundreds of other items over the years.

Monthly HOA fees mostly rise, and seldom fall.

Increasing operational costs include water-sewer, general insurance, and a multitude of services. Many "inflationary" costs must be passed along to property owners, so the "general year-to-year trend" has been to increase about \$5. Each \$5 increase equals a little more than \$10,000 revenue to HRS. If fees can remain unchanged without jeopardizing Reserves, the board will seek to do so.

Parking, snow, plowing, water hoses, etc. Winter is here, so make sure you are prepared for it. Disconnect all water hoses and clear your patios of debris. Get your snow shovels out.

If you park outside your garage overnight, be prepared to move your car for snow plowing. Ice melt buckets will be provided at key driveway sites, so please use no other ice melt.



See facing page

Please call Janelle with any other questions or concerns.

A special thanks to HRS residents. The board wishes to thank everyone living here for their cooperation and participation in making HRS a great neighborhood. This includes tenants, too. Over the years, many renters have purchased homes in HRS because it felt like home.

The board works to promote and protect home values, but it can do little against market trends like the past five years. By keeping the community's appearance up-to-date, balancing the budget, and growing Reserves, HRS will be in a good position to benefit from an expanding economy. Thanks to all for helping!

Chimney Hill by Lana Gutnik

By now, everyone knows that Chimney Hill has a new property manager. Accord Property Management started on Oct. 1, and right away they received about a dozen emails. It shows that residents were starving for attention. Accord just completed its first walk-through of the entire development and submitted its first inspection report.

Please contact Alec Hrynevich, if you have any questions, 720-230-7321, email alec@accordhoa.com. CH's annual meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Heather Ridge clubhouse.

Water and Other Things. Sprinklers were turned off during the first few days of October. Please disconnect all water hoses and turn off the water valve. Don't forget to turn off a secondary water safety valve (if you have one) inside your unit. This will ensure that the pipe does not burst during the cold winter weather.

Do not forget to file an Architectural Control Committee (ACC) request for any modifications you are planning for the exterior of your condo. A copy of the ACC form is posted to the association web site, www.accordhoa.com. A hard copy could be requested by calling Accord Prop-

erty Management, 720-230-7321.

For after-hours property-threatening emergencies only, call 720-259-8019. Call 911 for all life-threatening emergencies.

2012/2013 Monthly Meetings. Chimney Hill's annual meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at the Heather Ridge clubhouse.

Notice about Chimney Hill monthly meetings will be announced in the December issue of *Metro Matters*. All Chimney Hill residents are welcome to attend.



Additional copies of Metro Matters are available at the Heather Ridge Clubhouse: near the Pro Shop and in a magazine rack near Noonan's Tavern office.

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Metro Matters would like to increase its staff

It is looking for volunteers to:

- Represent *Metro Matters* at UAHR and HRMD Board meetings when held. Give an end-of-the-year report to the HRMD Board.
- Act as the drop-off point for hand-delivered issues:
 - Five Homeowners' Association representatives pick up the magazines for their areas each month.
 - Another volunteer will pick up the magazine for delivery to the Golf Club, Bean Tree Coffee and Diane's NY Bagels.

- Donaldsons Inc. picks up 50 copies.
 - Deliver magazine copies to the Golf Club, Bean Tree Coffee on Peoria and Iliff, and Diane's NY Bagels on Parker Rd.
 - Collect articles from HRMD, UAHR, HRCA, golf clubs, HOAs, Neighborhood Watch, HR Foundation, Molly Markert's Newsletter, Out to Lunch Bunch, Letters to the Editor, and compose the monthly calendar. Send them to the publisher for layout.
 - Periodically conduct interviews of HRMD residents of interest.
 - Take photos of district events
- If you are interested in volunteering for any of the positions above, please contact Bette Secord, 303-695-9582 or bettesecord@gmail.com.

Heather Ridge

RTD Director Tom Tobiassen responded to some Frequently Asked Questions:

1) How many cubic yards of concrete were used to build the bridge? 1590 cubic yards

2) How many pounds of reinforcing steel (rebar) were use in the bridge? 305,401 pounds

3) How wide is the bridge (curb to curb) and how long is the bridge? The bridge from outside edge to outside edge is 85-feet wide, inside curb to inside curb width is 68-feet, and the bridge is 278-feet long.



Photos by Jeannie Girard

4) What is the final cost of the bridge and what was the early completion bonus to SEMA? Total cost for Yale Bridge was \$2,493, 073, with a \$150,000 early completion bonus (or \$3,750 for each day it was opened before the required 6-month opening day milestone).



Photo Album

I-225 RAIL LINE



Construction on the segment of the project from Nine Mile to liff began spring 2012 as part of a joint contract with CDOT.

In July 2012, the RTD Board approved a proposal from Kiewit Infrastructure Company that will complete the full line and open it in 2016.

November 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6 pm FWY 16 Board Meeting – FWY 16 Clubhouse	2	3
<i>Note: Regular Heather Ridge board or committee meetings will be held on the dates below, providing there is business to be conducted.</i>						
4 Daylight Savings Time Ends	5	6 Election Day 6 pm UAHR Board Meeting – 19th Hole GC at HR	7	8	9	10 Metro Matters Deadline 1–5 pm UAHR Chili Cookoff – FWY 16 Clubhouse
11 Veteran's Day	12	13 6 pm Chimney Hill Annual Meeting – GC at HR	14 6:30 pm Neighborhood Watch Meeting – Burgundy Clubhouse	15 4 pm HRMD Board Meeting – GC at HR 6:30 pm Ward IV Meeting – Fire Station 11, 2291 S. Joliet St. at E. Iliff Ave.	16	17
18	19	20 6 pm Chimney Hill Board Meeting – GC at HR	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Note:

- 1st Annual Chili Cookoff, Saturday, Nov. 10, Fairway 16 Clubhouse
- Neighborhood Watch Meeting: 6:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 14, Burgundy Clubhouse, 2685 S. Xanadu Way.



Out To Lunch Bunch

The next gathering will be Thursday, Nov. 15, noon @ East Cafe (15140 East Mississippi Avenue). Please contact Ginny Lewis to RSVP —

ginny.lewis@comcast.net or 303-337-6118



Metro Matters readers:

In an effort to reduce mailing costs, HRMD residents, off-site owners and Golf Course members can opt to get a copy via email. If you would prefer to receive this magazine as a low resolution pdf file by email, send your email to metro.matters@comcast.net (with your current mailing address). Advantages, besides saving on postage, include: 1) you'll get the magazine earlier; 2) you can print any page you want to read or share; and 3) you can more easily share it with friends with whom you correspond on email.

HRMD, UAHR and HRCA meetings are open to residents!

Golf Club at Heather Ridge Monthly Update

www.golfclubatheatherridge.com



18-Hole Ladies League

2012 was a great season for the 18-hole HR Ladies League with many good golf days. The club looks forward to the 2013 season.

Newly elected and returning officers and directors for

2013 are: President Teresa Anderson; Vice-President Patti Enright-Harris; Secretary Sally Simon; Treasurer Irene Young; Past President Wendy Traynor; Directors Megan Myers, Kim Larson and Ginny Lewis.

CONGRATULATIONS to Marj Copeland for winning Most Improved Golfer for 2012!

—Teresa Anderson

On Sunday Oct. 14, Errol Rowland had a Hole in One on Hole #5 at 105 yards from the white tees with a wedge. Congratulations!

HRMD website activity – the hits just keep on coming!

The Heather Ridge Metropolitan District (HRMD) website was redesigned recently with a new address: HRColorado.org. If you go to the old web side, hrmdco.org, there is a link to the new one.

Are people interested in what's happening in HRMD? In the first 30 days of the new website (Sept 5 to Oct 4), there were 4,845 "hits" visiting it — an amazingly high level of activity! The answer is yes, people want to know what we are doing!

This bodes well for community interest, communications and activities. One of the most popular selections is *Metro Matters* magazine. Monthly hits on it now average 884 as its importance grows to HRMD residents AND others. Each month, more and more people sign up for electronic delivery — mostly off-site property owners. However, almost 3 percent of our 1,127 homeowners living here subscribe electronically.

Heather Ridge and Aurora real estate markets. When HRMD was proposed, its three goals were — preserve the open space best used as a golf course, protect real estate values, and promote our way of life. Those three goals are being met through the monthly publication of *Metro Matters*, an HRMD website, and a successful golf course operation.

For those loving housing stats, please visit REColorado.com, Realtor.com, or metrolist.com. Public access to metrolist.com is by membership, but there's free public information, including monthly sales statistics and reports. This information is published through newspapers and real estate entities. By publishing sales reports and trends for Aurora South and metro Denver in *Metro Matters*, residents and followers of Heather Ridge will keep abreast of real estate trends.

Metrolist's October report for September 2012 high-

lights the following trends for metro Denver:

Residential highlights all areas

- 20.6 percent increase in number of closed sales for September year-over-year (3,147)
- 9.4 percent increase in average price (sold) (\$306,633)
- 35.4 percent decrease in average days on market (64)
- 17.8 percent increase in number of closed sales YTD (28,218)

Condo/Townhome highlights all areas

- 49.9 percent decrease in average days on market (64)
- 10.3 percent increase in number of closed sales for September year-over-year (802)
- 16.8 percent increase in average price (sold) (\$186,843)
- 9.5 percent increase in number of NEW listings (968)

Issues being discussed by 10 HOAs.

- **Security companies** — reviewing service costs and benefits, collective security with other HOAs, interfacing with Aurora Police Department. The Neighborhood Watch articles in *Metro Matters* are making everyone more aware of crime and safety issues.

- **Management Companies** — changing companies to upgrade services, lower costs, and improve community communications. *Metro Matters* publishes a list of current management companies each quarter, so please refer to it for more details.

- **Foreclosure losses** — how to protect against future foreclosures and lost income to the HOA. Currently, all Heather Ridge HOAs operate as private corporate entities, working under Colorado Law CRS Title 38. If they would convert to individual metropolitan districts, their HOA fees would be collected through property taxes and not lost due to foreclosure or bankruptcy actions. See CRS Title 32 for more information. At this time, The Shores condo community at East Yale and South Parker
See HRCA...page 15

AMBER Alert...from page 3

information about the victim and the abduction for law enforcement to issue an AMBER Alert to assist in the recovery of the child.

- The child's name and other critical data elements, including the Child Abduction flag, have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC).

How does the Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative work?

An abducted child, age 17 years or younger, is reported to a local law enforcement agency. Law enforcement issues an AMBER Alert and NCMEC is notified and provided with the information to include in the alert.

NCMEC formats the AMBER Alert message and sends it electronically to Syniverse.

Syniverse sends the AMBER Alert message to participating wireless carriers.

Participating carriers send the AMBER Alert message, in text message format, to their subscribers who have opted in to receive the notices.

How can consumers receive Wireless AMBER Alerts?

Wireless subscribers, whose wireless devices are capable of receiving text messages, may opt in to receive Wireless AMBER Alerts by registering at www.wirelessamberalerts.org or by visiting their wireless carrier's website.

When they opt in, consumers need to provide their wireless phone numbers, including area code, and designate up to five ZIP codes for which they want to receive Wireless AMBER Alerts.

IMPORTANT: Information you provide will be used solely for the Wireless AMBER Alerts initiative and

will not be shared with additional parties.

How often will I receive Wireless AMBER Alerts?

Hopefully, the need never arises for you to receive a Wireless AMBER Alert. Approximately 200-250 AMBER Alerts are activated across the nation each year. You will only receive an AMBER Alert if a notice is sent pertaining to the areas you designated when you opted in to the program.

Will I receive Wireless AMBER Alerts from all over the country?

No. Subscribers will only receive AMBER Alert messages on their wireless devices that pertain to the specific areas they identified when they opted in to receive the alerts.

Why can I only subscribe to five ZIP Codes?

The Wireless AMBER Alerts program uses ZIP codes as the most convenient method to determine the appropriate Alerts to send to you, in the areas where you spend the most time. It's similar to when you use a web site to get a weather report for your area. Weather sites on the web ask for your ZIP code to retrieve the weather forecast that is most relevant to your general area, but they don't prepare separate forecasts for each ZIP code in the area.

How do I know if my carrier offers Wireless AMBER Alerts?

You can enter your ten-digit wireless phone number on the subscription page to determine if your carrier is participating.

Will my carrier charge me for receiving Wireless AMBER Alerts?

No. The carriers who are participating have entered into an agreement with the NCMEC that requires them to provide these alerts at no

additional cost to consumers. If you have any questions, you should contact your wireless carrier.

Do you share information such as mobile number or email address with any other organizations?

No.

Will I get unrelated, unwanted text messages besides AMBER Alerts if I register to receive Wireless AMBER Alerts?

No. The only text messages you will ever receive from the Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative are as follows:

- Initial AMBER Alerts that pertain to the geographic area you have selected
- Updates concerning a specific AMBER Alert
- Cancellation messages concerning a specific AMBER Alert
- Confirmation messages when you modify your Wireless AMBER Alerts profile

I received an AMBER Alert and believe I have information that could be helpful — who do I contact?

You should only call the number that appears in the text of the AMBER Alert notice you receive to report helpful information. Do not call your wireless carrier and do not reply to the AMBER Alert message.

I need to report a missing child. What should I do?

To report a missing, abducted or lost child, please call your local law enforcement agency or NCMEC at 1-800-THE-LOST.

If I leave my current cell phone provider and go to another company, will I still receive Wireless AMBER Alerts through my new carrier?

No, you must re-subscribe with your new carrier.



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Dr. Matt Mauck

Sometimes the wind just blows...



The gale force winds that arrived about midnight on Oct. 17 brought cooler temperatures and blew down some venerable trees. Owners awoke to find a new project on their "to-do" list: "Remove dead tree."

This tree was photographed in Heather Ridge South by Van Lewis.



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Letters

Metro Matters

I am writing this email to reassure [Molly Markert's] constituents that the homicide, which occurred last week in the 11900 block of E. Cornell Circle, does not appear to be the work of a stranger. Major Crimes Detectives of the Aurora Police Department are making good progress in the case. It appears that there was a relationship between the victim and the killer.

Since the case is still being investigated, I cannot go into any more detail at this time; however, the citizens of Ward IV should not be concerned that a random killer is on the loose in their neighborhood. Please contact me if you have any additional questions. Thanks.

...

I got your message on the fence vandalism in Danbury and I will look into that issue.

...late last week, a suspicious incident occurred in Dam East. A vehicle occupied by a male and female

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 tenth 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.

Be A Guest Writer: Metro Matters accepts 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.

stopped and began talking to a young child who was playing in her front yard. The mother saw this and went outside. The vehicle sped off. The mother and a neighbor who witnessed this did not get a license plate on the vehicle, so the police have no leads to follow-up on at this time.

This may be a good bulletin to distribute to the folks in your Ward just in case the vehicle shows up in another neighborhood. It would also be a good reminder for parents to keep an eye on their kids when they are playing outside.

**Lieutenant Martin Clough
District 1 Sector Lieutenant
303-739-1847**

{Editor's Note: Lt. Clough originally wrote these letters to City Councilmember Molly Markert.}

Neighborhood Watch...from page 3

Please think twice before you yank up a political campaign sign from someone else's property — there is up to a \$750 fine for committing this misdemeanor. It is unlawful for anyone to remove, deface or destroy lawfully placed political campaign signs or written material from any premises to which it was delivered. (See C.R.S. §1-13-113.) Keep in mind that it is possible that political signs are being taken by persons outside of the Dam West.

For those who have asked, Colorado law prohibits homeowner associations from denying property owners the right to display political signs.

Please do not place political campaign signs in or on common areas within the HOA. This includes all common properties such as; buildings, greenbelts, fencing and bulletin boards.



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Road is investigating this option for itself.

- **Encroachment** by individuals onto golf course land. When the golf course was surveyed 10 years ago by its owner then, there were 69 reported encroachments. These encroachments were a result of the developer faults, not HOAs or homeowners. Today, some residents have extended their landscaping onto golf course land, raising boundary and ownership issues.

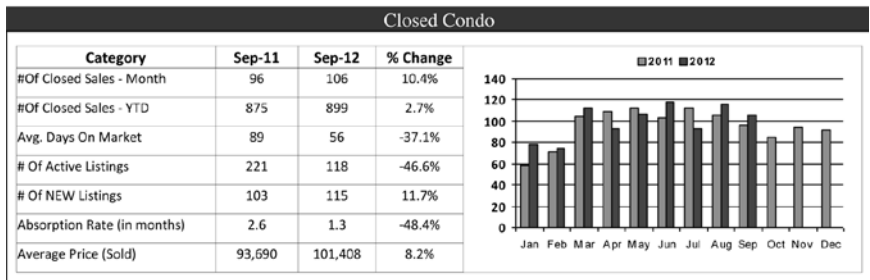
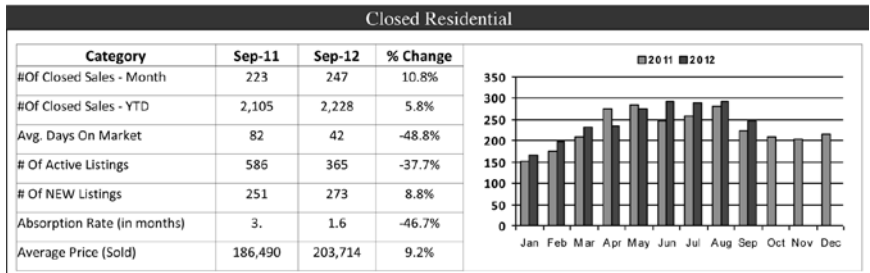
- **HOA Fee costs.** Are fees too high relative to other communities? Boards must balance their annual budgets, so if expenses exceed income, then something must change. Many boards discuss this issue because it influences home sales. *Metro Matters* publishes a list quarterly of each Heather Ridge HOA listing HOA fees and other common concerns.

-Van Lewis

September 2012 - Real Estate Market Statistics



Aurora South - AUS



Free Days for November, December

Denver Botanic Gardens Friday, Nov. 2
720-865-3500, 9 am-5 pm
1005 York St., www.botanicgardens.org

Denver Botanic Gardens @Chatfield Friday, Nov. 2
303-973-3705, www.botanicgardens.org
8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton

Denver Art Museum Saturday, Nov. 3
720-865-5000, Saturday, Dec. 1
www.denverartmuseum.org 10 am-5 pm
100 W 14th Ave Parkway

Denver Museum of Miniatures, Dolls and Toys Sunday, Nov. 4
Sunday, Dec. 2
303-322-1053, www.dmmtdt.org 1-4 pm
1880 Gaylord Street, Denver

Denver Children's Museum Tuesday, Nov. 6
303-433-7444, www.mychildsmuseum.org 4-8 pm
2121 Children's Museum Dr. Tuesday, Dec. 4

Denver Zoo Monday, Nov. 5; Friday, Nov. 16
303-376-4800, www.denverzoo.org Wed., Nov. 28
2300 Steele Street, Denver

Denver Museum of Nature and Science
303-322-7009, www.dmns.org Monday, Nov. 19
2001 Colorado Blvd Sunday, Dec. 9
(Fee for IMAX films, Planetarium) 9 am-5 pm

Mizel Museum Friday, Nov. 30
303-394-9993, 9 am-4:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 30
400 S Kearney St mizelmuseum.org

Denver Center for Performing Arts 303-547-3410,
www.denvercenter.org, 1101 13th St. Each Tuesday at
10 am, DCPA will release a limited number of \$10 tickets. Ten seats for every DCTC performance in the coming week will qualify (up to 25 shows per week). Use code SCFD

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Handyman Services. If you need to fix it, I can do it. Home improvement and repairs, plumbing, light electrical, carpentry, painting, and flooring. HRMD resident. Call Leo, 720-838-8072.

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. Information, call Mary, 303-368-7559, MHafka@comcast.net.

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