Heather Ridge Metro Matters

Serving the Heather Ridge Metropolitan District communities of: Burgundy, Chimney Hill, Cobblestone Crossing, Cobblestone, Country Club Ridge, Doubletree, Fairway 16, Heather Ridge South, Strawberry, and Sausalito

Volume 3

March 2013

Number 9

Neighborhood Watch

The next Neighborhood Watch meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm Wednesday, March 13. It will be held at Fairway 16 Clubhouse, 2600 S. Vaughn Way. Lots of parking exists on both sides of the street. We are looking forward to this meeting as it will be something much different than our normal agenda. It is called:

Aurora Police Department and The CELL Launch The Community Awareness Program to Enhance Public Safety

What:The Aurora Police Department and The CELL invite you to
a free public safety training opportunity.

When: 6:30 pm Wednesday, March 13

- Where: Fairway 16 Clubhouse, 2600 S. Vaughn Way, Aurora, CO 80014
- **RSVP:** To RSVP for this important public safety training program opportunity, please e-mail *cap@thecell.org*.
- **Information:** For more information about the CAP, visit *www.thecell.org/ cap* or see last month's issue of *Metro Matters*

Neighbors interested in becoming more involved in the Heather Ridge Neighborhood Watch program should contact Bev Brown, 303-872-3154, or Amy Jones, 720-350-0283. You may also email Amy Jones at *amyjjones888@gmail.com* to receive Neighborhood Watch email alerts.

Residents of UAHR and Area 10: There will be future information on this very important event by way of a flyer(s). Plan to RSVP by emailing to *cap@ thecell.org* after March 1 and by March 12. We ask you to do this so we can be prepared to accommodate all attendees.

Bev Brown, Head Area Coordinator for UAHR Amy Jones, Co-Head Area Coordinators for Area 19

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.

Heather Ridge Metropolitan District President, Errol Rowland Vice President, Van Lewis, Treasurer, Vinny Roith Secretary, Melissa Miller Assistant Secretary, Jim Bruce Assistant Secretary, Joan Beldock Assistant Secretary, Mary Lou Braun

Heather Ridge Metropolitan District

Vinny Roith 303-755-3660 720-246-0306 *info@HRColo.org:* HeatherRidgeColorado.org

Heather Ridge Golf Club

3521 E Iliff Ave Aurora, CO 80014 303-755-3550 www.golfclubatheatherridge.com

United Associations of Heather Ridge (UAHR) President, Josie Spencer www.uahr.org

Heather Ridge Neighborhood Watch Bev Brown 303-872-3154 Amy Jones 720-350-0283 Aurora Police, PAR Officer 303-739-1819

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Heather Ridge Metro Matters is published monthly for the residents of Heather Ridge. Publisher: Donaldsons, Inc. Lynn Donaldson Editor 303-766-8649 LynnNeu@ comcast.net.

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It's Property Tax Time Again!

Ben Franklin said it all to Jean Baptiste Leroy in 1789, "...but in this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes." Hoping all readers are in good health, the 2012 property tax bill is now due and payable in 2013.

Colorado's Constitution and state laws have established real property assessment procedures and requirements. County government is an extension of the legislature to implement statutory laws. Property taxes usage and revenue is limited by law to help pay for public services including government, police, schools, libraries, and fire protection. It also includes local tax districts like Heather Ridge Metro District #1 (HRMD).

The property tax process starts with real property assessment. County assessors must re-appraise

values every two years in odd numbered years only. Examining property values in a 24-month period ending on June 30 of the year prior to the reappraisal, county assessors for 2013 will examine June 30 of 2012 to June 20 of 2010. This "look back" period can be up to five years if needed.

Once the county establishes the Actual Value of residential property (market value). the legislature determines the Assessment Rate or percentage to derive the Assessed Value. For example, if the Actual Value is \$100,000, and the Assessment Rate is 7.96 percent (which it is), the

Assessed Value for taxation is \$7,960. In contrast, the assessment rate is 29 percent for most other types of properties including personal property.

Next, those authorities entitled to use property taxes for public services must submit a budget to the county by December 15 for that year's taxes to be paid in the following year. Once approved, the Tax Rate to fund them is determined as a percentage (mills or millage) of individual Assessed Values.

When property owners receive their Property Tax Statement, a section lists all taxing authorities, tax rates (mills), and tax amounts. The Tax Rate is the sum of all mill rates multiplied by Assessed Value to determine a property tax amount.

The HRMD budget varies from year to year, but its mill rate has remained 42.5 mills since buying the golf open space. The District's budget is twofold: 11.5 mills for administration, and 31 mills for bond debt service. The golf course operation cannot use public funds and must operate on a cash-flow basis with its own budget. If it fails as a business, it must close down.

HRMD's gross Actual Value for tax year 2011 is \$156,873,874 for approximately 1,127 units. Multiplying the gross Actual Value by 7.96 Assessment Rate equals

\$12,487,140 Assessed Value. Using HRMD's 42.5 mills (0.0425) times its Assessed Value equals \$530,703. its budget amount for 2013.

As an example, in HRMD the average Actual Value per tax year is \$139,196. Multiplied by 7.96 Assessment Rate, \$11,080 is the average Assessed Value. HRMD's 42.5 mills equals \$470.90 in property tax.

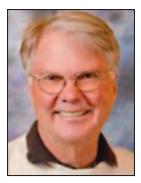
The biggest benefit of the HRMD property tax is funding the bonds used to buy the golf course. If developers had purchased the foreclosed golf course land, and dozens tried, construction of condos and

apartments would be a foregone conclusion given an expanded I-225, a light-rail station at lliff, and a new Regatta Plaza Shopping Center at Parker Road and South Peoria Street.

Other tax benefits include rising real estate values despite slightly higher property taxes. The value of golf course living and dedicated open space has spurred Heather Ridge home values greater than the general

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Pete Traynor Double Tree 303-877-9538 Pete Traynor@ReMax.net

Real Estate Update

In metro Denver, it is now a seller's market given the price range, location and condition of a home. Heather Ridge reflects the metro Denver market except its price range of \$65,000 to \$200,000 is in the hottest part of the market. Based on the 75 sales in Heather Ridge for 2012, the average sold price was \$122,914, and it's climbing fast!



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

Will your home's value increase this year? In general, it should increase 3–5 percent for the next five years. In

2012, all metro Denver home prices increased on average of 9.6 percent and Heather Ridge mirrored that increase and more.

However, not all homes are alike, even the same model by the same builder in the same neighborhood. To prove the point, here are two examples: Sausalito and Heather Ridge South.

Pete and Van recently listed a home in each community. Their Sausalito listing was \$161,900 and went under contract in one day. Another listing there (the same model and a foreclosure) is also under contract, last priced at \$105,000. Listed two years ago at \$163,500, and relisted again by another agent last year at \$149,900, it never sold.

In Heather Ridge South, Pete and Van listed a remodeled unit for \$185,000 that went under contract in a week. The identical model in Heather Ridge South and Fairway 16 ranges in price from \$140,000 to \$170,000, selling on average in 75 days. In the past 10 years, this model has sold as low as \$103,000 and as high as \$220,000.

As the two examples show, not all homes are equal. Pete and Van visit hundreds of homes each year in and out of Heather Ridge. This gives them unique insights for home sales and prices. Correct pricing requires actual, first-hand knowledge of market activities and trends. In an emerging seller's market, with many sellers still barely breaking even, Pete and Van's market analysis could be the difference between selling or not.

Pete and Van's services start with a personalized visit to your home. They try to make two visits, first to gather information, followed by a presentation. Using the latest computer analyses programs, Pete and Van incorporate their own experiences in Heather Ridge. Owners will view photos and data for comparable homes, and in many cases homes that Pete and Van sold. They will nail down your home's price range, cost factors, and improvements to optimize value.

To optimize your home's value, please call your neighborhood experts. Pete and Van live with their families in Heather Ridge, and they want what all owners want here — increasing home values, pride of ownership, and a strong feeling of community!

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

Sold in Heather Ridge Nov. 26, 2012–Feb. 11, 2013

НОА	Sold \$	No.	Street	Be/Ba	SqFt	Gar/Spaces	Style
Strawberry I	\$47,500	13633	E Yale Ave B	1 - 1	856	1-Carport,Resv	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$55,300	13629	E Yale Ave A	1 - 1	856	1-Carport,Det	1.5 Story
Strawberry I	\$75,000	2642	S Xanadu Way C	1 - 1	973	1-Carport,Det	1.5 Story
Strawberry II	\$80,000	2431	S Xanadu Way D	2 - 1	1,091	None	2 Story
Strawberry II	\$83,000	2499	S Xanadu Way D	2 - 2	1,091	Off Street	2 Story
Sausalito	\$96,000	2490	S Worchester St A	2 - 3	1,273	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Burgundy	\$120,000	2635	S Xanadu Way B	2 - 2	1,315	1-Garage,Det	2 Story
Burgundy	\$134,000	2645	S Xanadu Way C	3 - 2	1,315	Off Street	Ranch
Double Tree	\$140,000	2657	S Vaughn Way	4 - 4	1,919	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Sausalito	\$145,000	2488	S Victor St E	2 - 3	1,282	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Heather Ridge South	\$158,000	2756	S Xanadu Way	3 - 3	1,462	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Sausalito	\$162,000	2408	S Victor St E	2 - 2	1,025	2-Garage,Att	Ranch
Country Club Ridge	\$185,000	2260	S Vaughn Way 103	2 - 3	1,485	2-Garage,Att	Ranch

Homes for Sale in Heather Ridge, New Listings February 2013

		U V					
HOA	Price	No.	Street	Be/Ba	SqFt	Gar/Spaces	Style
Strawberry I	\$59,900	13615	E Yale Ave A	1 - 1	856	Off Street	Ranch
Cobblestone Crosing	\$99,000	1911	S Xanadu Way	2 - 2	1,208	1-Garage,Det	2 Story
Strawberry II	\$106,900	2481	S Xanadu Way	2 - 2	1,091	None	2 Story
Sausalito	\$150,000	2459	S Worchester St D	2 - 3	1,230	2-Garage,Att	Ranch
Country Club Ridge	\$159,500	2280	S Vaughn Way 101	2 - 2	1,196	1-Garage,Att	Ranch
Fairway 16	\$165,000	2496	S Vaughn Way D	4 - 3	1,650	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Burgundy	\$165,900	2671	S Xanadu Way B	2 - 2	1,315	2-Garage,Det,Resv	2 Story

Homes Under Contract (or Pending) in February 2013

НОА	Price	No.	Street	Bed/Ba	SqFt	Gar/Space	Style
Strawberry II	\$49,900	2485	S Xanadu Way A	2 - 2	1,091	None	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$69,500	13621	E Yale Ave B	1 - 1	856	2-Carport,Resv	2 Story
Strawberry II	\$79,000	2419	S Xanadu Way D	2 - 2	1,091	1-Reserved	2 Story
Strawberry II	\$83,000	2465	S Xanadu Way A	2 - 2	1,091	Off Street	2 Story
Strawberry I	\$87,000	13613	E Yale Ave B	2 - 2	1,144	1-Carport,Resv	2 Story
Sausalito	\$105,000	2511	S Worchester A	2 - 2	1,273	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Cobblestone Cros'ng	\$114,750	13412	E Asbury Ave	2 - 2	1,208	2-Garage,Det,Off St	1.5 Story
Strawberry I	\$116,000	2660	S Xanadu Way A	2 - 2	1,144	1-Carport	2 Story
Fairway 16	\$150,000	2416	S Vaughn Way A	2 - 2	1,365	2-Garage,Att	Ranch
Sausalito	\$161,900	2447	S Victor St A	2 - 3	1,273	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Heather Ridge S	\$185,000	2871	S Xanadu Way	3 - 4	1,633	2-Garage,Att	2 Story
Country Club Ridge	\$189,950	2280	S Vaughn Way 203	2 - 3	1,693	1-Garage,Att,Over	Ranch

Homeowners' Association News

Country Club Ridge by Judie Maurelli

To maintain the current HOA monthly dues, Country Club Ridge has been reviewing expenditures. Water tops the list of big monthly costs. Country Club Ridge (CCR) has been working with Aurora Water Department in an effort to understand and control the water usage. Landscape maintenance is one area where savings are possible. Last July, a water audit was performed by a local nonprofit organization. The report showed many areas that need attention this spring. In addition, changes in the current landscape plan could make a significant savings in water usage.

Aurora Water has reviewed the audit and awarded CCR eligibility to participate in a xeriscape rebate program they sponsor. In the coming months, board members will participate in a series of classes about xeriscaping, meet with consultants about the specific property, have a landscape architect prepare a plan, and begin making changes this spring and summer. Not only will CCR use less water, CCR will receive rebates from the City

of Aurora. Going forward, water bills should be significantly reduced. CCR is hoping to see a



return on this investment in 3–5 years.

If you are interested in helping with this huge undertaking, contact CCR through Custom Management Group, 303-752-9644, or one of the board members listed below.

The Country Club Ridge Board of Directors was elected in November. Directors are Gale Drexler, Renette Ivester, Roslyn Green, Judith Maurelli, and Robert Waldman.

CCR board meetings are held at 7 pm on the third Monday of each month at Custom Management Group Meeting Room, 2950 S Jamaica Court (lower level).

Owner's forum is always the first item on the agenda. Please attend if you have a topic to discuss.

Chimney Hill

Winter Concerns: Accord Management received numerous letters concerning snow removal and persistent ice buildup. CH Board is trying hard to come up with the best solution. Snow will be plowed when there are 4 inches on the ground; all steps will be shoveled when there are 2 inches of snowfall. The Board is making an effort to address the ice issue with utmost urgency and welcomes any suggestions about this matter.

Residents can use ice melt in the bright orange containers for areas that may need extra care and where ice does not melt. Please do not remove these containers.

The landscape company responsible for snow removal will park the bobcat in one of the parking spots in front of the pool if significant snowfall is predicted. This is a temporary, but necessary, winter only issue. Snow removal is expedited by having a bobcat on the premises.

Safety of CH Residents is Our First Priority: Please help your elderly neighbors during extremely cold weather and icy conditions. **Board and Management News:** CH residents must contact Alec at Accord Property Management with any questions,



concerns and requests. Please report all parking violations to Accord Management. Alec's phone number is 720-230-7321, and his is email *alec@accordhoa. com.* Do not call subcontractors directly with any issues related to grounds or building maintenance.

Under Colorado law, HOAs can no longer distribute residents' directory with phone numbers and email addresses. To get a response from the management company in a timely manner, update your contact information on CH website by going to *www. accordhoa.com/associations/* and click on Chimney Hill, or call Accord with your contact details if you do not have a computer. For after-hours noncriminal emergencies, please call 720-259-8019. Leaking sprinklers and/or flooding are some examples

See Chimney Hill...page 22

Fairway 16 by Susan Bruce

Water Conservation Rebates: The recent water bill showed an increase in rates again. Anything you can do to save water would really help. The City of Aurora writes that if you have a toilet installed prior to 1994, which uses 3.5 or more gallons per flush, Aurora Water offers a \$75 rebate on WaterSense 1.28 toilets and \$150 rebate for WaterSense 1.0 or less toilets. To find the gallons per flush on your existing toilet, look under the toilet lid or on the back of the toilet bowl behind the seat. If not listed, the appliance year should be inside the toilet tank or under the lid. The website is www.auroragov.org/LivingHere/Water/Conservation/ WaterConservationRebates.

Route 131 RTD Bus: A meeting will be scheduled in March with the staff from RTD and RTD Board Directors Claudia Folska and Tom Tobiassen at the Fairway 16 clubhouse. The date and time have not yet been set, but a notice of that meeting will be posted on each mailbox. This is your chance to tell RTD that you want the bus route removed from S. Vaughn Way for safety reasons, your safety as you try to exit your driveways. Please plan to attend and speak to the RTD people. Cookies will be provided!! Owners from Sausalito and DoubleTree are also welcome.

Architectural Review: Please be reminded that owners wishing to make an architectural improvement or modify the exterior of their home and/or landscaping are required to submit an Architectural Review application for board approval. This form can be found online or call Hammersmith, 303-980-0700, to obtain the form.

If the request is made to install skylights, sun tubes or solar



panels, remember that the maintenance responsibility for the roof where the upgrade is made will become the owner's responsibility. A Restrictive Covenant Agreement is made between the owner and the association when this type of improvement is approved.

Annual Meeting: Fairway 16's annual meeting will be held at 6 pm on Thursday, April 4 at the clubhouse. At this meeting two board members will be elected. There will also a discussion on general association issues and possible future changes to the monthly assessments. Owners are encouraged to attend. Proper notice of this meeting will be mailed to all owners at a later date. If you wish to run for a board seat, you will need to fill out a candidate profile form. Forms are available from Susan Bruce, or you can get a form from Jean Ronald, Fairway 16 property manager at Hammersmith. Board candidates are required to be a deed-holder or mortgage-signer or both and are in good standing with the association. The two questions on the form are: Tell us about yourself and why do you want to be on the board. Please return your profile to Jean Ronald at Hammersmith.

Heather Ridge South by Van Lewis

Heather Ridge South FHA Approved: As of February 11, 2013, HUD approved HRS's application for condo certification (condo ID D005148). Units in HRS are eligible for new FHA loans and refinancing. Thanks to Westwind Property Management for getting this done in a timely manner.

Water-Sewer Damages to Units: Please call Westwind Management (303-369-1800; *janelle@ westwindmanagement.com*) for any sewage and water issues, whether in the basement or elsewhere. Westwind will send AAA Plumbing and Jetting Services (303-435-4952) as the "plumber of record" for HRS. They know HRS's sewer and water systems, maintenance policies, and cost factors. Owners and tenants using anyone else for work may be at risk for reimbursement given maintenance issues and responsibility. HRS Board May Meet Every Other Month: Normally held at 6:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the clubhouse (2811 SXW), meetings may be held every



other month pending community needs. With no major work projects in the process, skipping a month here and there saves time and costs. Cancellations will be posted on the clubhouse door bulletin board. Please contact Janelle Maninger for more information.

Volunteers Needed for the HRS Board: The Heather Ridge South board is authorized up to nine directors. It now has seven with a member retiring at the end of this year. Learn how HRS operates and help to keep it



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THINGS IN COMMON

Heather Ridge (HR) residents love the open space, acres of green grass, mature trees, and beautiful landscapes, and lots of Black-Eyed-Susans in the summertime — but do not love owning lawn mowers.

They love enjoying the friendship of long time neighbors; and take pride in their homes and communities. HR residents love their patios — but not the 6-foot privacy fences that block their views or the need to repair broken sprinkler heads. They love a semi-suburban way of life, convenient to shopping, golfing, working, and public transportation — but not living on the 16th floor or the traffic jams on Parker Road.

They love their kids and grandkids and the world class Cherry Creek School District that surrounds the Heather Ridge community.

HR residents love summer evening Bar-B-Qs on the patio with family and friends; cross country skiing; and the wild life that calls the HR golf course home; and they love spending the day at nearby Cherry Creek State Park.

HR residents do not love outsiders interfering with their lifestyle, but they do love the rich history of the HR Country Club and the golf course community that connects all the HR communities. The residents love the architectural diversity and character of the 10 distinct neighborhoods that are within walking distance, but not spending their summers painting the trim on the house or patching the roof.

They would prefer to remodel their kitchens and then show it off by inviting neighbors over for dinner.

HR residents love walking, with or without their dogs or golf clubs and welcoming new neighbors to the community. HR residents love to say, "I live at Heather Ridge," to those not fortunate enough to live in the community and understand what poet Robert Frost meant when he wrote, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall."

Whether you call Cobblestone Crossing, or Country



Barry McConnell Fairway 16 Heather Ridge *Metro Matters* Editor

Club Ridge; Strawberry I or Sausalito; Double Tree or Fairway 16; Chimney Hill or Cobblestone; Heather Ridge South or Burgundy your community, a special wish for the new year is that you take a moment to pause and consider how fortunate you are to call Heather Ridge home. Here's hoping all 10 communities can all continue to work together in the coming year to preserve the HR way of life so important to everyone.

- Barry McConnell



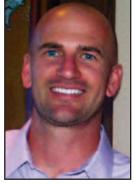


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Dr. Matt Mauck

Golf Club at Heather Ridge Monthly Update



www.golfclubatheatherridge.com

HR Women's 18-Hole Golf League

The 2013 application forms have been emailed to last year's members. Application forms are available in the 19th Hole and at the Pro Shop. The application is also online at *www.golfclubatheatherridge.com* under Leagues and Clubs. Applications should be completed and handed in by March 15, so every name can be included in the roster book. The association anticipates welcoming many new members this year.

The posting of scores for handicap begins March 15.

The first Wednesday tournament is scheduled for April 3 at 8:30 am. The first Saturday tournament is scheduled for April 6 (weather permitting) with an 8 am shotgun start followed by the annual Spring Luncheon. Look for sign-up sheets on the Women's Golf Association bulletin board outside the 19th Hole for both of these tournaments and the luncheon. Wednesday and Saturday tournament schedules are also posted on the bulletin board.

> Teresa Anderson President

Cool Weather Golf No Problem at Heather Ridge

Cooler weather brings some additional challenges to golfers. Here are a few tips for playing when the temperatures are below 50 degrees.

Make Heather Ridge Golf Course Your First Stop: Heather Ridge golf course is the only public course in the Denver area with enclosed golf carts. If the greens and fairways are clear, the course is open. Special Twilight rates for March start at 3 pm. Call 303-755-3550 for tee times. There are special rates for



Low Compression: According to *Golf Magazine*, cold weather is not kind to golf balls. Golf balls tend to become harder with the cold, making miss-hits harder on the hands. Keep the golf balls you plan

See facing page

Heather Ridge Metropolitan District residents.

Layer, Layer, Layer: Many golfers have trouble playing with clothes restricting movement. Thanks to thinner, more insulating fibers, it's easy to find slim t-shirts and turtlenecks. A large coat won't allow the freedom of movement that's necessary to swing through. Use a wind breaker or wind shirt for greater agility.

Hats and Gloves: It's important to keep extremities warm. Keep warm gloves in your bag, along with a hat or headband. Change out the gloves when you swing the club. Keep your head and ears covered. Socks made of newer fibers can be just as warm as wool. Wool is a great natural insulator and can absorb large amounts of moisture without feeling clammy. Playing golf with cold feet and hands isn't fun.



Heather Ridge Metro Matters, March 2013

Heather Ridge Ladies 9-Hole Golf League Facts

Heather Ridge Metro Matters Editor Barry McConnell | recently asked Sharon Gunderson about the Heather Ridge Ladies 9-Hole Golf League:

When was Heather **Ridge Ladies 9-Hole Golf** League formed?

It was founded in 1977. Jane Ruddick was the first president and Elly Walker was the first Club Champion. Membership the first year is not known.

How many current members?

In 2012 membership totaled 36.

When does the HR Ladies 9-Hole Golf begin to play?

The casual start to the season will be held each Tuesday in April. Then, in May, official tournament play begins. The league plays every Tuesday morning.

Winter golf ... from page 10

to use in the house, not the car or the garage. On the way to course, keep the golf balls in the car for warmth.

Dense Winter Air: Cold air is denser than warm air. High compression balls won't go as far or spin as well as the lower compression, or softer balls. Golfers may need to use more club to get the same distance.

Stay Hydrated: In the Rocky Mountain West, fluids are

important. In winter, the humidity tends to drop, drying everything out including golfers. Don't forgot the water bottle during the round, and use it. Remember, the beverage cart is probably keeping warm in the clubhouse!

Playing golf when it's cold can mean having the golf course to yourself. You can bounce the ball across the ponds — what's not to like?

– Barry McConnell



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Expires April 1, 2013

What activities/tournaments are planned for 2013? The 2013 membership application lists the Special

Tournaments/Events for the season is available at www.

golfclubatheatherridge.com/womens-9hole-golf-club. The league plays every Tuesday morning.

Is the league accepting new members? The more the merrier — new members alwavs welcome.

Who should potential members contact for additional information?

information. contact Sharon Gunderson, 303-755-1600, Mabel Jordan will collect dues.

What is the best thing about the HR women's 9-Hole Club?

Even though the league hosts weekly tournaments that are played in accordance with the PGA rules, the club is a casual, socially oriented group of women who welcomes all to join and enjoy some fun days and good fellowship on the course.

What are the benefits of membership? The benefits include preferred tee times on play days, prizes in each flight, and a directory of members.

- Barry McConnell



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WEEKENDS: BYO Bloody Bar & Bottomless Mimosas 'till 6pm... Skyy and beer specials ALL weekend!!

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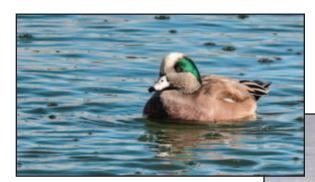


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Colorado Wildlife: One of the many reasons to love living here!

Right: A bald eagle photographed at Cherry Creek Reservoir

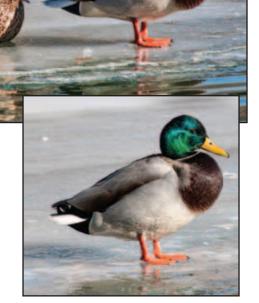


Every winter, ducks and geese find Colorado lakes inviting. Above: Male wigeon swims among the bubbles Right: Male Mallard duck hides his head while female mate sits on the ice: his brilliant head colors are seen right below. Below: Four American Wigeons









Left: Canada geese are unperturbed by snow and ice

Below: Male Goldeneye



Photos by Jeannie Girard

March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
H	RMD, UAHR and open to	HRCA meeting residents!	gs are	7	1	2
3	4 March 4 (and 18) 7:30 pm City Council Mtg 1515 E. Alameda Pkwy	5	6	7 6 pm Fairway 16 Board Mtg Fairway 16 Clubhouse	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time Begins	11 Metro Matters Deadline	12	13 6:30 pm Sausalito Board Mtg Heather Ridge Golf Club	14	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18 7 pm Country Club Ridge Board Mtg 2950 S Jamaica Court	19 7 pm Strawberry Board Mtg Strawberry Clubhouse	20	21 6 pm Chimney Hill Board Mtg Golf Course Card Rm - Lower Level	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25 6:30 pm Heather Ridge South Board Mtg HRS Clubhouse	26	27	28 6:30 pm Ward IV Meeting – EcoTech Institute 1400 S. Abilene Street	29	30
31 <i>Easter</i>			committee dates a	lar Heather Ridg meetings will be above, providing ness to be condu	held on the there is	



Aurora Public Library System

www.auroragov.org/thingstodo

LIBRARY News MARCH Events

All library locations will all be closed Sunday, March 31 — Easter

Storytimes

11:15 am, Tues., ages 0-23 mos. and their caregivers: Aurora Central

10 am, Wed., 2-6 years and their caregivers: Aurora Central 10:30 am, Wed., 2-6 years: Tallyn's Reach

10 am, Thurs., 2-6 years and their caregivers: Mission Viejo

R.I.S.E. Storytimes/Parent Literacy Classes

10:30 am, Wed., 3-5 years with adult: MLK 10 am, Thurs., 3-5 years with adult: Aurora Central

Aurora Youth Options (AYO) Homework Help/Tutoring

Volunteers and teens help with homework. 3:30 pm, Tues.: MLK 4 pm, Thurs.: Aurora Central

English Conversation Group

6:30 pm Wed.: Aurora Central

A friendly atmosphere for those people who speak a little English to enhance their vocabulary, become comfortable with everyday English, and learn more about American culture. Topics and themes will vary, chosen by the different personalities and direction of the students. For ages 18 and up.

Movies at the Library

3:30, Fri., March 1, "The Lorax": MLK 5:30, Wed., March 13, "Back to the Future": Aurora Central 3:30 pm, Fri., March 15, "Hop": MLK 2 pm, Sat., March 16, "The Color Purple": Tallyn's Reach 2 pm, Sat., March 23, "The Manchurian Candidate" (R) 18 and older: Tallyn's Reach 11:30 am Mon., March 25, "Easter Parade": Aurora Central 2 pm, Sat., March 30, "In Search of Dr. Seuss": Mission Viejo

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!

March 2, 2 pm Mission Viejo Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday! Eat green eggs, make a Cat-In-The-Hat hat, mix-up some oobleck and read the story of "Bartholomew and the Oobleck". ages 7-12. Registration required.

DIY (Do It Yourself) Zone

March 6, 4 pm Mission Viejo Make a duct tape wallet. Registration required.

Wagging Tales

March 9, 10 am Central Library

Wagging Tales introduces children to a four-legged friend and then the magic begins! Each child selects a fun book to read to his or her new doggie pal. Tails wag as tales are told and each child practices reading skills with a new friend who loves a good story and won't interrupt or criticize. In addition to a wonderfully supportive reading experience, each child is rewarded with a new book to keep.

Aurora Central Library — 14949 E. Alameda Pkwy, 303-739-6600 Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK) Library — 9898 E. Colfax Ave., 303-739-1940 Tallyn's Reach Library — 23911 E. Arapahoe Road, 303-627-3050 Mission Viejo Library — 15324 E. Hampden Circle, 303-326-8600

Family Art Project

March 9, 2 pm, MLK Be creative, have fun, and make new friends! Registration required.

Science in the Stacks:

March 10, 2 pm, Aurora Central Liz Gerdeman, Outreach Director at Brain Injury Alliance of Colorado, will present Brain Injury 101 on a basic level for adults.

Top Shelf Book Club: Sophie's World

March 13, 11 am, Mission Viejo

The protagonists are Sophie Amundsen, a 14-year-old girl, and Alberto Knox, her philosophy teacher. The novel chronicles their metaphysical relationship as they study Western philosophy from its beginnings to the present. Registration required.

TechZone

March 13, 4 pm, Mission Viejo Learn computer programming. Grades 6-12. Registration required.

Word Basics

March 20, 2:30 pm, Aurora Central Type and edit a letter using Word tools and features. Ability to use a mouse is required. Ages 13 and up. Registration required.

GameZone

March 20, 4 pm, Mission Viejo Join us for Wii gaming, computer gaming, board games, card games and more. Grades 6-12. Registration required.

Bunny Basket Craft

March 22, 10:30 am, Tallyn's Reach Make an adorable bunny basket out of paper plates. Ages 3 and up.

Hip-Hop with Funkenetics!

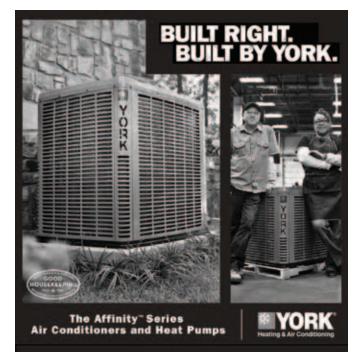
March 26, 4 pm, MLK Learn hip hop dance moves with dance pro DeAndre Carroll at this interactive dance party.

Go Fly a Kite!

March 30, 2 pm, MLK

Make your own kite under the direction of the pros from the Rocky Mountain Kite Association. Then, go outside and fly your kite with us.

Additional library programs can be found on the Aurora Public Library System website. Please visit www.auroragov.org/ ThingsToDo/AuroraPublicLibrary/index.htm



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Molly Markert Ward IV

15151 E. Alameda Parkway 303-739-7516 (Council Office) 303-941-2244 (Mobile) mmarkert@auroragov.org



Damaged Fence Along I-225

At the January 7 Study Session, Council Member Markert asked about the repair of the fence that was damaged along Interstate 225 as the result of a police chase in December.

Both the guardrail and fence along I-225 were damaged. After some investigation, it was determined that the guardrail repair is the responsibility of the City. CDOT has the responsibility of repairing the damaged fence. Proposals were received from prospective contractors for the repair of the guardrail in December, and a contact has been issued. The repairs were to be completed by the end of January. CDOT is still evaluating the fence repair and has not provided a date on when these repairs would be completed.

From Chris Carnahan to me: The City's contractor will begin work on Jan. 21 to repair the guardrail. CDOT is working with our contractor to have them repair the fence at the same time. I talked to CDOT's project manager on Jan. 17, and he said he doesn't have a contract in hand yet, but he fully expects to be able to authorize the contractor to proceed.

From me to Chris: Thank you!!!!

Concrete Wall Colors: A second question was also asked about the color of the concrete walls being constructed along I-225 with the widening project. The I-225 noise walls that have been recently constructed

See Markert...page 19

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RECALLS

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the use of the thousands of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. You may contact them at (301) 504-7923 M-F, 8 am–4:30 pm ET or visit *www.cpsc.gov*

LG Recalls Top-Loading Washing Machines: Due to Risk of Injury. The recall involves three LG and three Kenmore Elite Brand top-loading washing machine models manufactured between February 2010 and November 2011. The units come in beige, white and graphite steel colors. An unbalanced load can cause the washing machine to shake excessively and the drum to come loose during use, posing a risk of injury to consumers and property damage to the surrounding area. Consumers should immediately contact LG or Sears for a free in-home repair of the machine online at *www.lg.com/us* and click on Public Notices.

BRP Recalls Ski-Doo Snowmobiles Due to Fire Hazard: The fuel pump inlet fitting can come into contact with the oil tank and break, leading to a fuel to leak, which poses a fire hazard. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled vehicles



and contact a BRP dealer to schedule a free repair. BRP has notified registered consumers directly about this

recall. *www.ski-doo.com* and click on "recall information" under the owner center for more information.

Mutsy USA Recalls EVO Strollers: Due to Strangulation Hazard. The opening between the grab bar and seat bottom of the stroller can allow an infant's body to pass through and become entrapped at the neck, posing a strangulation hazard to young children when a child is not harnessed. Consumers should stop



using the strollers immediately and contact Mutsy USA to receive a free replacement seat unit and grab bar. *www. mutsy.com* for recall information.

BlueStar Wall Ovens Recalled by Prizer Painter Stove: Works Due to Fire Hazard. Some of the wall ovens have been improperly installed and/or have damaged flexible gas appliance connectors, posing a fire hazard. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled ovens, contact BlueStar for instructions on identifying affected units and to schedule a repair. Recall number: 13-117 www.bluestarcooking.com and click on "Recall".



Heather Ridge Metropolitan District #1 The Golf Club at Heather Ridge 13521 E Iliff Ave Aurora, CO 80014

Dear HOA Presidents and Boards

January 30, 2013

Thank you for attending the First Annual Heather Ridge Metropolitan District (HRMD) Presidents' Dinner honoring the ten HOAs within HRMD -- it was the first time all boards have met under one roof since buying the golf course in 2009. The meeting's agenda was simple: for the HOAs to meet each other, to learn about common interests and goals, and to promote the United Associations of Heather Ridge (UAHR).

After cocktails and a prime rib-chicken dinner, the evening was highlighted by City of Aurora and Metro District speakers -- including Councilwoman Molly Markert of Ward IV. Topics included Regatta Plaza, I-225 light-rail, Neighborhood Watch!, HRMD's golf course (\$100,000 in profits 2012), the Heather Ridge Metro Matters Magazine (MM), the Open Space Foundation, and the United Associations of Heather Ridge(UAHR).

It is very important for the HOA boards to invest in the well-being of the United Associations of Heather Ridge. By sending representatives to its meetings, boards will learn about taxpayer dollars used to run the Metro District and pay its bonds. Also, UAHR participation includes discussion of problems most HOAs face - xeriscape, security, insurance, maintenance, etc.

Again, thank you for coming to the First Annual President's Dinner. As noted and signed below, your participation was deeply appreciated.

Errol Rowland President, HRMD

Bette Secord Retiring Editor MM

Molly Markert

Ward IV, City Council

Barry McConnell New Editor MM HR Open Space Foundation

President, UAHR

Beverly Brown

Neighborhood Watch!

Larry Ransford, Business Manager The Golf Club at Heather Ridge, Golf Operations

Property tax...from page 3

recovery. Adjacent neighborhoods are doing well, but not as well as HRMD. Where else in metro Denver could you buy a nice home in a safe neighborhood for under \$200,000 with a beautiful golf course running through it. It happens only in Heather Ridge!

Paying Your Taxes: If the tax amount is less than \$25, you must pay in total by April 30. For greater amounts, there are two payment methods: half payments by February 29 and June 15; or payment in full by April 30. Failure to receive tax notice is not an excuse for non-payment. Taxes for any previous year attach as a lien to your home on January 1 of the following year.

Colorado Senior Tax Exemption: Please don't miss Colorado's senior property tax benefits program. To qualify, an applicant must be at least 65 years old on January 1 of the year of application. The applicant, or spouse, is the property owner of record and has owned it for at least ten consecutive years prior to January 1. Lastly, an applicant has occupied the property as the primary residence and has done so for 10 or more consecutive years prior to January 1.

In 2000, Colorado voters passed the senior tax exemption. When the State of Colorado's budget allows, 50 percent of the first \$200,000 of actual value is exempted from taxation. Due to a poor economy, the state legislature suspended senior exemptions for tax year 2009, payable in 2010; however, it restored the exemption during the 2012 General Session for tax year 2012, payable in 2013. Only one property qualifies per applicant along with various exceptions concerning title-trusts, survivors, marital status, and disabled military.

Applicants must be qualified and file a timely application for tax exemption. For more information, please visit the county assessor's office or website to complete either their short or long forms. Applications should be submitted to the county assessor by July 15 of the year for which exemption is requested. (All property tax payers should visit the website for Arapahoe County Treasurer and Assessor's offices. Statements herein are primarily from county and state government sources).

— Van Lewis

Markert...from page 16

have not received the specified color stain at this point. The wall stain colors are intended to match the existing I-225 noise walls located to the north and south of the current project. The Yale Bridge will also match these colors when completed. Prep work was started before the holidays, but then cold temperatures set in, postponing work. When warm temperatures return, the prep work will start and staining completed.

Free Tax Assistance: In Aurora, free tax filing assistance for taxpayers with a household income less than \$49,000 is available through Tax Help Colorado from now until March 10 on Tuesdays from 1 to 8 pm, Fridays from noon to 5 pm and Saturdays from 9 am to 3 pm at the

Community College of Aurora's Lowry Campus, 710 Alton Way, West Quad, Room 113.

An Old Irish Blessing

May the road rise up to meet you.



May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, And rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Love to Hear from You!

Heather Ridge Metro Matters (HRMM) would love to hear from you! Whether it's a letter to the editor, an article about someone special in your neighborhood, or about an upcoming Heather Ridge organization event, HRMM wants to hear from you. Got a good news story about an advertiser, an extra special anniversary, or birthday. Share it with the community through *Heather Ridge Metro Matters*. Are you a member of, or interested in starting a Heather Ridge writers club, bridge club, needle point club, cooking club, wine tasters club,

investors club, chess club, or book club? *Heather Ridge Metro Matters* will help you spread the word. Please keep your articles to less than 500 words and submit them by the 10th of the month to *Heather Ridge Metro Matters* editor Barry McConnell at *bmcconn202@aol. com* 303-366-1505 or publishing coordinator Cherryl Greenman at *cherryl.greenman@gmail.com* 303-886-1693. By the way....small business owners also find the service directory and classified advertising a great low cost tool for reaching new customers!

Letters

Heather Ridge Metro Matters:

My computer recently began acting up to the point where it needed professional help. I called Scott Winder of IN-HOME TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE (720-244-4166) and he came to my home the following afternoon and spent over 2 hours working on the computer and going to a store for some additional RAM I needed. He got the matter resolved in short order, explained the problem to me in English, not computerese, and how to correct it if it should happen again.

His charges were more than reasonable and the computer is running like new again. I wholeheartedly recommend Scott and his company to anyone and I know they will be as pleased as I with his work.

Note: His company does advertise in *Heather Ridge Metro Matters and* he and other companies that advertise deserve our support as they support this publication.

Jim Bruce Fairway 16

Free Days for March/April

Denver Botanic Gardens @Chatfield						
303-973-3705, 9 am–5 pm	Friday, Apr. 5					
www.botanicgardens.org						
8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Little	eton					
Denver Art Museum	Saturday, Mar. 2					
720-865-5000, 10 am–5 pm	Saturday, Apr. 6					
www.denverartmuseum.org						
100 W 14th Ave Parkway						
Denver Museum of Miniatures,	Sunday, Mar. 3					
Dolls and Toys	Sunday, Apr. 7					
303-322-1053, www.dmmdt.org, 1-	-4 pm					
1880 Gaylord Street, Denver						
Denver Children's Museum	Tuesday, Mar. 5					
303-433-7444, 4–8 pm	Tuesday, Apr. 2					
www.mychildsmuseum.org						
2121 Children's Museum Dr.						
	nesday, Mar. 27					
720-865-3500, 9 am–5 pm Monday, Apr. 22						
1005 York St., www.botanicgardens.org						
Denver Museum of Nature and Science						
303-322-7009, www.dmns.org	Sunday, Apr. 21					
2001 Colorado Blvd, 9 am–5 pm						
(Fee for IMAX films, Planetarium)						
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).						

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CONSUMER ALERT!

Online Pharmacies

Recently the District Attorney's Office was alerted to a large distribution of flyers to consumers from pharmacies not located in the United States. Orders for prescriptions can be done online, by calling a toll-free number or through the U.S. Mail. The drugs will be shipped from a variety of foreign countries. Consumers should know the source of their prescriptions to make sure what they are buying is safe. Some medicines bought may be fake; may have dangerous ingredients; may not have been checked for safety and effectiveness; or may be labeled, stored, or shipped incorrectly.

Consumers need to make sure the company they are dealing with is a state-licensed pharmacy. Pharmacies and pharmacists in the United States are licensed by a state board of pharmacy. The state board of pharmacy can tell you if the pharmacy or website is a state-licensed pharmacy in good standing and is located in the United States. Consumers can find a list of state boards of pharmacy on the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) website at *www.nabp.info*.

The Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), Division of Professions and Occupation, Board of Pharmacy regulates licensor in Colorado. Visit DORA's website at *www.dora.colorado.gov* to check licensor.

Warning signs of online pharmacies:

- Offer discounts or cheap prices that seem too good to be true.
- Allow you to buy drugs with a prescription or completing an online questionnaire.
- Drugs are not FDA approved.
- Will ship prescription drugs worldwide.
- State that the drugs will be shipped from a foreign country.
- · Are located outside of the Untied States.
- Are not licensed by a state board of pharmacy in the United States.

Tips to identify if a pharmacy is safe:

- Require a valid prescription.
- Provides a physical address in the United States.
- Is licensed by the state board of pharmacy in your state and the state where the pharmacy is operating.



 Has a state-licensed pharmacist to answer your questions.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), only 3 percent of online pharmacies reviewed by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy are in compliance with U.S. pharmacy laws and practice standards. It is not easy to identify fake online pharmacies. Fraudulent sellers exploit U.S. consumers by pretending to be legitimate pharmacies offering prescription medicines on the FDA's website at *www.FDA.gopv/drugs/resourcesforyou.*

Criminally prosecuting this type of crime is a challenge. If you become a victim of fraud, file a report with your local law enforcement agency. Complaints can also be filed with the Colorado State Board of Pharmacy at *www. dora.state.co.us/pharmacy* or 303-894-7800.

Additionally, when the scam involved the Internet, you can file a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at *www.IC3.gov* or with the Federal Trade Commission at *www.ftc.gov*.

The District Attorney's Consumer Protection Line provides assistance to victims of crime and answers questions on white collar crimes issues. If you have a question or need assistance, call 720-874-8547.



Chimney Hill ... from page 6

of non-criminal property emergency. Call 911 for all life threatening emergencies.

This and That: It was brought to the Board's attention that not all mailboxes have an outgoing mail slot. As old mailboxes deteriorate, CH will replace them with new ones with an outgoing mail slot.

Gutter cleaning has been completed.

In order to keep Heather Ridge Metro Matters (MM) alive, Heather Ridge Community Affairs (HRCA) asked that all Heather Ridge HOA communities hand deliver the magazine. Starting in April, the magazine will be placed

in the white plastic boxes installed on most mailboxes in Chimney Hill. Only one magazine box was installed in the areas with two side-by-side mailboxes. Please walk around to see where these boxes are installed and pick up the copy of MM to stay informed about the news in the district and surrounding communities. MM will be delivered between the 1st and the 5th of each month.

Monthly HOA Meetings: CH monthly HOA Board meetings are scheduled to convene on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the card room on the 1st level in the golf course clubhouse (entry through men's' locker room). The next monthly meetings will be on Thursday, March 21, at 6 pm. All Chimney Hill residents are welcome to attend

Heather Ridge South ... from page 7

running smoothly. Please contact any board member or Janelle Manager for more details.

Compliments on HRS's Appearance: Visitors to Heather Ridge South are calling us "a hidden jewel" in a sea of faceless communities. Realtors, craftsmen, visitors, and appraisers have noted how pleasantly surprised they are at our appearance. As the HOA continues to update the community, owners can update their interiors — a win-win for all.

Parking in Front of Garages: HRS's Rules and Regulations detail this issue, so please review it. The HRS community looks and operates better with fewer vehicles parked in driveways. The prohibition of commercial vehicles keeps the neighborhood from looking like a truck stop. These rules apply to owners and their tenants! Permanent parking in the driveway must be limited because it could block other driveways, limit access by emergency vehicles, and block snowplows.

Noise and Disruption Complaints: Aurora police, along with HRS security people, recently shutdown an out-of-control party here. Revelers were walking on roofs, playing ear-busting music, and illegally parking cars. When neighbors started complaining, Covenant Security Services talked to revelers without success. Aurora police arrived and quickly gained control, shutting down the party. The HOA will not tolerate this conduct, and will use all legal means to enforce its Rules and Regulations.

Improving HRS Home Values: Updating or remodeling homes adds value as well as personal enjoyment. HRS has three different floor plans all built in the early 1970s.

However, if not updated they will remain in 1970s vs. today. Features to update include original windows, kitchen, bathrooms, and furnaces; dark wood doors and trim; and original lights and hardware. Opening up walls between the kitchen and living room greatly improves values, especially if accented with hardwoods or granite. It is presumed that any update/remodel includes the basics for new carpet, paint, and appliances.

What You Get for Your Monthly HOA Fee: With fees now \$271 or \$266 a month, what does an owner get for that? You get: a professional management company (Westwind); water and sewer; general insurance; unit/buildings exterior maintenance (including roof); landscaping and grounds; snow removal; on-site security company; on-site maintenance; irrigation of common areas; seasonal pool; clubhouse; and a reserve fund. Other than reserve contributions, water is the second largest budget expense.

Of all the items listed, two items are particularly important: professional management and reserves. Westwind manages the annual budget, provides services 24/7, and keeps records and operations compliant in an ever-changing world. It also manages the reserves, HRS's rainy-day funds to patch and repair what ails the community. With \$550,000 in the bank now, the goal is \$3 million by 2042 (roof replacement). Each year \$100,000 is budgeted into reserves, but unbudgeted expenditures nets about \$80,000 annually.



Heather Ridge Metro Matters, March 2013





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303-886-1693 Cherryl Greenman

Letters to the Editor: Send your letters for Metro Matters to Barry McConnell, Fairway 16, bmcconn202@aol.com; or Cherrvl Greenman. cherryl.greenman@gmail.com; by the 10th 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.

Classified Ads

FOR SALE

Queen Size Sofa Sleeper and loveseat set. Good condition. See by appointment. 303-337-5131. Make a reasonable offer!

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Knives, Scissors, Yard Tools Sharpened. Cash or check accepted. Call Paul Burns, 303-750-8750.

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sinks, toilets, bathtubs, sump pumps. I Wall tile, tile laminate, hardwood flooring. Find us on Angies List. 24-years experience. Rob Sperr, 303-884-5321.

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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.

Heather Ridge Metropolitan District Metro Matters 13521 E lliff Ave

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