

# THE CONSERVATORY AT THE PLAINS



HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

## Director's Corner

In January the Board of Directors held the first Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for the Conservatory Committee members and spouses. The event featured a catered meal, a short training and special recognition of the Operations Committee Chairman Tim Siml along with Lynn Siml and Barbara Gaetos.

Tim was presented with a caricature picture and the ladies received flowers. All three have contributed hours to our community. Lynn opens and is the hostess for the weekly Coffee Hour Tuesday mornings at 9:30. Barbara stepped up and filled out a vacancy on the board of directors last year and spends hours at our pool in the summer. Tim keeps a watchful eye on our building and grounds.



### Just What Does The Operations Committee Do?

Operations committee members keep tabs on our building and grounds.

They regularly visit the clubhouse to evaluate its cleanliness, check on lights, garbage removal, flowers, supplies, and replace the flag as needed. Occasionally they will touch up paint, replace batteries, and straighten up after events or rentals. We also have an inventory of tables and chairs that must be organized, kept clean and inspected

for wear. During the summer months umbrellas and furniture are inspected for use and removed if service is required.

Members may perform simple tasks (changing light bulbs, watering flowers, and lowering the flag if there is a notification for half-staff.) In their monthly report to the board of directors they draw attention to maintenance issues they observe in the building, around the pool and in landscaped areas. Each need is evaluated as to whether volunteers should resolve the issue or if professional services are needed.

Interested in getting involved? Use the Contact Us option on [www.conservatoryhoa.com](http://www.conservatoryhoa.com) or contact the committee liaison Helen Hardin at [Conservatory@westwindmanagement.com](mailto:Conservatory@westwindmanagement.com) with any questions.

The committee charter is available at <https://www.conservatoryhoa.com/standing-committee>

March 2024

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# Social Committee Corner

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark your calendars and join us in the fun! Additional events may be added in the year.

<b>March 30</b>	Spring Egg Hunt	<b>August 31</b>	Pool Closing Extravaganza
<b>June 7-9</b>	Garage Sale Weekend	<b>September 8</b>	Pooch Plunge
<b>June 15</b>	Spring Cleanup	<b>November 2</b>	Fall Cleanup
<b>July 4</b>	4th of July Bicycle Parade	<b>December 14</b>	Breakfast with Santa

### **No Pressure Book Club**

*2nd Tuesday of each month at 11:00am  
Conservatory Community Center*

Anyone is welcome to the No Pressure Book Club. The book club selected books through September 2024

**March 12th** - The Wager - Shipwrecked, Mutiny and Murder by David Grann

**April 9th** - The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise by Colleen Oakley

**May 14th** - Soles of a Survivor: A Memoir by Nhi Aronheim

**June 11th** - The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osmond

**July 9th** - The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

**Aug 13th** - Lady Tan's Circle of Women by Lisa See

**Sep 10th** - The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

### **Coffee Hour**

*Tuesdays from  
9:30am - 10:30am  
Conservatory  
Community Center*



### **Ladies Night Out Bunco**

*3rd Thursday of the  
month at 7:00pm  
Conservatory  
Community Center*



Come join us and bring \$5 for the prize pot and a beverage or an appetizer to share.

**Note: April Bunco will be held April 11**

If interested contact the group at [conservatory@westwindmanagement.com](mailto:conservatory@westwindmanagement.com)

### **Mahjong**

*Wednesdays &  
Fridays at 12:00pm  
Conservatory  
Community Center*



# Upcoming Events

## SPRING EGG HUNT

**MARCH 30TH, 2024 at 11:00AM**  
**CONSERVATORY COMMUNITY CENTER**



## THE CONSERVATORY HOA 2024 SPRING EGG HUNT

Spring has sprung! It is time for the annual Conservatory HOA Spring Egg Hunt. Mr. Bunny and The Spring Chicken will be joining us again this year!

**The Egg Hunt will start at promptly at 11 AM at The Conservatory Community Center.**

- 🥚 Please bring a container to gather eggs.
- 🥚 Children will be divided into 3 groups based on their ages: 3 and below, 4-6, and 7 and above.
- 🥚 All children will receive a treat and/or a prize. Special prizes will be awarded to those who find the golden eggs! Bring these golden eggs to the table for a prize. \*Parents please make sure to limit your child to ONE golden egg if they find one, so other kiddos have a chance.
- 🥚 Mr. Bunny and The Spring Chicken will be available for photos during the event!
- 🥚 Bebos Mini Donuts will be joining us with and will be offering mini donuts for purchase. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate will be provided by the Social Committee free of charge.
- 🥚 This is a fast moving event. So, **DON'T BE LATE!**

## FAMILY FOOD TRUCK NIGHT

**2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, STARTING APRIL 11TH, 2024**  
**CONSERVATORY COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**4:00PM - 7:00PM**

Take the night off from cooking and take advantage of the food trucks located outside The Conservatory Community Center! Join us on the 2nd Thursday of the month for a rotating selection of food options for purchase. E-blasts with truck info/menus will be sent out the week the trucks will be serving.





### Looking for a good book?

Conservatory Book Club member, Sheila Mozer maintains the library, adding most of the selections that the club has read as well as other donated titles.

### Feel free to borrow or contribute a book.

The Conservatory Lending Library is available whenever the clubhouse is open for club, community, or pool activities. Check the calendar at <https://www.conservatoryhoa.com/>.

### Join the book club group!

They meet the second Tuesday of each month at 11:00am.

#### Newsletters in 2024

The Communications Committee has scheduled 5 newsletters for this year due to volunteer shortages. Watch your inbox for editions in early March, May, July, September, and November. If you are interested in becoming the editor or a member of the committee, use the Contact Us option on our website.

## Water-wise Gardening and Landscaping

**As the spring planting season approaches the DRC would like to suggest several water wise gardening, landscaping, lawn care resources for homeowners.**

#### Resource Central <https://resourcecentral.org/>

Resource Central is an award-winning environmental nonprofit dedicated to helping people save water, reduce waste, and conserve energy.

- Garden in a Box
- Waterwise Seminars Online
- Lawn Replacement Services
- Slow The Flow

#### City of Aurora [https://www.auroragov.org/residents/water/water\\_conservation](https://www.auroragov.org/residents/water/water_conservation)

Aurora Water offers free, in-person and on-demand classes about efficient watering, water-wise landscapes, drought-tolerant plants and more

- Waterwise programs to include water conservation classes
- GRIP Grass Replacement Incentive Program

#### CSU Extension <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/>

- Lawn Care
- Soil and Water lab test available for a fee. <https://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu/>

#### Arapahoe County

<https://arapahoe.extension.colostate.edu/horticulture/lawn-care/lawn-check-diagnostic-services/>

- Lawn and Landscape Diagnostic Site Visits (thinning lawns, Dying lawns etc.)

The Design Review Committee will be sponsoring an in-person information session on Garden in a Box coming later this spring.

# Conservatory HOA - Plains Conservatory Trail Reminder

There have been several reports of food being left on the Plains Conservatory Trail. In order to maintain a pleasant environment for everyone, we kindly ask you to take note of the following message from the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department of the City of Aurora. Thank you!

## Why Feeding Wildlife is Not A Good Idea

The Conservatory neighborhood has it all: Great residents, a beautiful community and a fantastic view of the mountains. Above all, the Conservatory is situated along the border of the Plains Conservation Center, an 1100-acre open space area that boasts gorgeous views of the plains and a nonstop wildlife safari. Many residents of the community consistently let us know how much they love having nature right outside their doorstep, and many of our most dedicated volunteers come from this community. However, this time of year is a good time to remember that living next to nature is both a joy and a responsibility, and part of that responsibility is knowing the best ways of interacting with nature, as well as the not-so-great ones. One of the not-so-great ways of interacting with nature is in feeding wildlife. As we move from warm fall days to cool evenings and nights, it is natural to look at the wildlife on the other side of the fence and wonder if the animals have enough. It is helpful to remember that nature does not always play by our rules, and that wild animals have access to all of the food they need. They do not need our help, nor is it beneficial for them if we feed them. Some of the reasons we do not want to feed wildlife are:

- Feeding wildlife creates unhealthy problem animals, ones that are more likely to bite someone, cause property damage, or die an unpleasant death.
- Animals such as foxes, raccoons, deer, rabbits, coyotes and squirrels lose their fear of humans when we feed them. Fearless wildlife often becomes nuisance or dangerous wildlife.
- Wildlife feeding can occur inadvertently as well as intentionally. In order to keep wildlife from accessing any man-made food source, make sure to secure all trash and remove attractants such as pet food, fallen fruit, bird feeders and open compost piles. In neighborhoods where conflicts with wildlife are escalating, remove these things entirely, at least for a while.
- Practice hazing by shouting, waving your arms, and throwing non-food items in the direction of the animal to send it a very clear message that it is not welcome. Hazing is safe for both people and wildlife, and an animal that is hazed is much less likely to come around to the same place looking for food in the future.

When we practice the above techniques and remember that feeding wild animals is not in their best interest, the wildlife we see on the other side of the fence can continue to thrive, and our communities can be safe places for both people and the animals we love.

With all our help, the Conservatory neighborhood can continue to be a great place to enjoy nature as our neighbor, especially when we remember that feeding wildlife is not a good idea.

For more information, please visit [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature) and view the wildlife pages section.

# Design Review Committee

During January 2024 the Design Review Committee did not physically meet. Due to the extreme cold and number and nature of the requests, the January 15th meeting was canceled. Reviews and voting were conducted electronically. The January 29th meeting was canceled due to a lack of requests. Over the course of the month the Committee reviewed a total of 17 requests. Of the 17, there were two denials. One denial was an exterior paint request where the colors requested did not fit the guidelines for soft, muted colors. The second denial was a reroof request that did not include the color of the shingles. The homeowner was not responsive to the committees request for additional information. Below are the approved requests. The breakdown may exceed the number of total requests due to multiple projects included on a single request.

0	Concrete Installations/Replacements	0	Driveway resurface/repair
0	Decks	2	Exterior Painting
2	Fencing (restain)	0	Gazebos/Pergolas/Awnings
0	Hot Tubs/Hot Tub Screens	0	Landscaping
0	Playsets	1	Radon Installation
7	Roofing/Gutter Replacement	0	Storage Containers/Attached Additions
1	Solar Panels	0	Waterwise Installation
2	Other (replace garage door, recoat entrance walkway and porch)	0	Window Replacements

For the calendar year 2024, the Design Review Committee has reviewed 17 requests and approved 15. Please remember that ANY exterior improvement to your lot MUST have approval BEFORE you move forward with the project. The appropriate form and guidelines can be found at

<https://www.conservatoryhoa.com>.

## **Board of Directors**

President	Andrew Igl
Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Charlie Fiser
Secretary	Helen Hardin
Director	Josh Guttorsmen
Director	Dave Sunstron

## **Operations Committee**

Chairman	Tim Siml
Member	Jim Hardin
Flag	Steve Mann
Flowers	Rhonda Mann

## **Design Review Committee**

Co-Chair	Duane Oudenhoven
Co-Chair	Joy DeMots

## **Conservatory Financials**

*As of end of January 2024*

Operating Account	\$	<b>240,629</b>
General Reserves	\$	<b>317,613</b>
Underdrain Account	\$	<b>1,462,333</b>

## **Social Committee**

Co-Chair	Selena Kennedy
Co-Chair	Barbara Gaetos
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Vacant

## **Communications Committee**

Helen Hardin	Sharon Fisher
Josh Guttorsmen	Vacant

Print this page for your use

Print, fold and cut to use this bookmark. Color copies are available at the clubhouse too.

LOVE ME  
DON'T  
FEED ME

Feeding wildlife gets the animals you love in trouble.

Aurora  
2008

SCHD  
Scientific Horticultural  
Society of Aurora

AURORA COUNTY  
1793 FOUNDED  
Aurora County Open Space  
Grant Supported Project

LOVE ME  
DON'T  
FEED ME

We know you care about wildlife, but nature provides plenty of food. Feeding wildlife hurts the animals you love.

**Do Not Feed Wildlife**

- Feeding wildlife creates unhealthy, problem animals; ones that are more likely to bite someone, cause property damage or die an unpleasant death.
- Never feed wildlife, intentionally or unintentionally. Secure all trash and remove attractants such as pet food, fallen fruit, bird feeders and open compost piles.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.auroragov.org/nature](http://www.auroragov.org/nature)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars now and join us in the fun!  
Additional events may be added throughout the year.

Mar 30th	Spring Egg Hunt
May 25th	Pool Opens
June 7th	Garage Sale Weekend
June 15th	Spring Cleanup
July 4th	4th of July Bicycle Parade
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