

## WINDSOR OF AAHS

*By Fred Hobbs*

Following the death of my wife three years ago, I had serious life adjustments to make. Apart from dealing with my grief over the loss of the love of my life, how was I to proceed to re-arrange that life? For a while, I did nothing. I remained in the home we had shared in Denver's Park Hill, a neighborhood we had lived in for nearly 50 years.

For a year, I continued, in the appropriate seasons, to water the lawn, rake the leaves, shovel the snow and handle the myriad of tasks that come with home ownership. Then, when those chores had become a particularly annoying drag and the memories connected with the house had turned more sad than joyous, I decided a move was in order.

Senior independent living facilities had become increasingly popular and the options were reasonably plentiful. As irrational as it may seem, I wanted to continue to reside in the City and County of Denver. Of course, living here all of my life, I was familiar with Windsor Gardens. But I did explore other senior "communities" in the metro area first. Boulder? Way too far from my "comfort zone." Golden, Lakewood, Arvada, Wheat Ridge? Closer to the mountains, but I prefer to bypass those towns while headed on special trips and relaxing weekends or quick vacations, actually in the mountains. Aurora? Are you kidding? That other place with "Gardens" as part of its name is too bland, too "clinical looking", no character.

Having decided that Windsor Gardens was in the right place, with the external character and pleasing appearance that I had admired for years, I consulted Kathleen, a realtor who handled transactions for us in the past. In addition to finding the best deal in selling my house, Kathleen scouted Windsor Gardens for the right unit for me. She found it.

My already remodeled modern apartment overlooks the tree-lined Highline Canal and a wide expanse of lawn, as beautiful when it is green as when it is snow covered. That's the most important of the "Aahs" of Windsor I enjoy.

Some folks may go for the bland beige or stark white look of most residential complexes these days, but I find the variety of colors on the Windsor building exteriors very pleasing. The grounds are not only exceptionally well attended, but benefit from the maturity of the trees, shrubs and the seasonal displays in the flowerbeds.

Windsor Gardens stands out among all the choices I could have made in one other significant way: its historic character. I am one of a distinct minority of residents who are very disappointed that the opportunity was turned down to designate Windsor Gardens as a Historic District, a distinction available to only a few very special places. Aah, so sad, but that issue has been settled.

My decision to move to Windsor Gardens also was bolstered by the many opportunities for recreation and stimulation including the swimming pools, the golf course, the classes, the entertainment offerings and, oh, yes, the Writers Group.

But, perhaps the most surprising and gratifying reasons that I find living here to be enjoyable are the people...the diversity of backgrounds, experiences, ethnicity, even languages spoken.

Windsor Gardens. Aah!