

The People of Windsor Gardens
by Harry Zirkelbach

In my home there are many mansions. I live in Windsor Gardens.

Windsor Gardens proclaims itself as a beautiful, well planned adult community. It is conveniently located in Denver Colorado. Further, it proudly provides a hassle-free life style, that carefree place where active adults live together in a non-gated community. All services are provided by a small Administrative staff, and very competent Facilities, Grounds, and Painting staffs, anchored by a Security Department available 24 hours daily.

Windsor Gardens has 2,689 units in 66, four and two story buildings, plus thirty-two Townhouses. In a resident population of about 3,500, none are required to care for the lawn, flowers, or snow removal. They are invited to participate in any of the 45 social activities scheduled weekly. Choices galore daily, little reason for any resident to be bored.

Yet it is volunteer activities of the residents that are often the most rewarding to these seniors, minimum age 55. And here, too, there is a world of opportunity for all. Each Building annually elects a Representative who becomes the agent for information to and from Windsor Garden Management. These seventy-one representatives meet once a month, and are asked to assist in duties that require immediate action.

To further disseminate such news in each building, each elects a Secretary, Treasurer, and Representative for each floor of the building. These individuals provide the eyes and ears for Management, and deliver facts required for the other residents of their building. Each building may have other duties prescribed, a scheduler for Laundry Room, for Building interior and exterior Christmas lighting, a new resident greeter, and the Annual summer and winter meetings for friendship, celebration, and plain old getting better acquainted. It has to be mentioned and emphasized, all these duties are performed by volunteers; no pay.

Windsor Gardens has lighted American and Colorado flags on display at the Clinton and Alameda entrance, flags near Centerpoint raised and lowered by Security daily, and mounted flags in Centerpoint permanently on the west wall. In addition each of the 66 Buildings has an American and Colorado flag, displayed on that Building's main entrance on the selected Holidays, announced monthly in Windsor Life. Flags are raised in the morning, returned to storage at sunset. Again, this task is done by a volunteer, often unseen, for flag raising and lowering is usually done in solitude on the scheduled events. In the first quarter of the year, the days honored are New Years, M L King Jr., Inauguration, Lincoln and Washington's birthdays, Easter Sunday, Mothers Day. These flags, reminders to resident and visitor, of events important to democracy and the way of life cherished by those who enjoy that liberty here in Windsor Gardens.

In the beautiful Lake, visitors admire the Mama duck and her ducklings gently moving about, never seeing the furious paddling just below the surface.

Residents and visitors alike see a manicured complex, with little awareness of the constant attention by Management and an estimated 20% of the residents, who maintain Windsor Gardens as an ideal Denver location for Seniors to enjoy their later years, retired or not.