

## AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

### Goodbye Quintilus, Hello Sextilus

Although I was not at all interested in calendar history as a youngster (or for that matter as an oldster), I did wonder why our eighth month was named “August” and our tenth month “October.” Why? Because I had taken Latin in junior high and had learned that “octo” means eight. And if “septem” meant seven, so why was our seventh month named “July” and ninth month “September”? Had our calendar makers not known their numbers?

Someone solved the mystery by telling me that Julius Caesar was to blame because Julius had added two brand new months to the then ten-month Roman calendar and had named them after himself (July) and his adopted son (and grand-nephew), Augustus. Simple? Yes. Easy to remember. Yes. True? Not quite.

I had swallowed — hook, line, and Caesar — a story that anyone who cares a lot about calendars knows is mostly horsepucky. Romulus, the mythological founder of Rome, is said to have adopted a 10-month calendar around 700 B.C.E. There is apparently no reliable evidence for this. There is evidence that at one time, way before Julius came along, the Roman calendar had nine named months plus a long winter period. (By the way, the internet still propagates various Romulus and Julius calendar myths, as it does many others.)

But I am now, calendarily speaking, up to date. I just read an overlong and overcomplicated but authoritative history of the Julian (now Gregorian) calendar with more twists and turns than Poudre Canyon. I have no intention of taking up my few remaining brain cells by trying to remember all of it, so here’s my oversimplification for those of you who have not yet dozed off.

The Roman calendar almost always had 12 months, but before Julius came along the year started in March (named after Mars, Roman god of war), not January. At that time, September and October were quite correctly the seventh and eighth months. But why were July and August not “Quintilus” and “Sextilus” for the fifth and sixth months of the pre-Julian calendar? The answer is, they were! Old Julius, apparently known as “Juli” to his buddies down at the vomitorium, renamed those months as said. But he also shifted the first of the year to January and made a few other crucial tweaks to the calendar. Shakespeare says that Julius spoke pretty fluent Latin (“Et tu, Brute?”), so why he failed to correct the now misnamed months remains a

mystery. But if you were fortunate enough to have skipped Latin, you would also have been fortunate enough to care nothing about any of this.

But it wouldn't be completely wrong for those of us born in August to refer to ourselves as Sextilus babies. For example, Old Juli would say that I was born on the XXIVth of Sextilus.

(Next month: What are the Ides of March? Why are they associated with Julius Caesar? What are "Ides" anyway? Should the AH board adopt them instead of EFT for the payment of fees? Do other months have Ides? Do I have Ides? If so, can I get rid of them with prayer or a prescription drug?)

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As usual, the Newsletter offers a variety of reads this month. In addition to the usual informative report on the state of the community from Ralph, you will find a profile of Carol and George Landsverk, two more nice people we are lucky to call neighbors, a hello from our new (and also erstwhile) bookkeeper, and several other items of interest.

As usual, don't forget to drop Chris a line (contact info immediately below) if you are willing to write something or be profiled for an upcoming newsletter. If you would like to see a friend and neighbor profiled, feel free to lean on him, her, or them gently.

### **Need help with a small household task?**

Mark Kenning and Chris Wells are still available *for free* to do minor handyman chores. Need grab bars installed, light bulbs changed, pictures hung, walks shoveled, stereos wired, holes drilled, nails pounded, planter repaired, someone to hold your ladder (or to climb up on one), or other minor tasks done not requiring a real pro or formal HOA approval? Ask Chris or Mark.

Mark Kenning: [patamk7@gmail.com](mailto:patamk7@gmail.com)

970-889-5226

Chris Wells: [wells\\_dc@law.mercer.edu](mailto:wells_dc@law.mercer.edu)

478-361-2691

### **Manager's Review August 2021**

We receive frequent comments, "Thanks for recent and timely information," via the Adriel Hills group email. We certainly subscribe to the policy of sharing information in a timely manner and will try not to be redundant in the newsletter.

**Insurance Renewal:** There may still be a few of you with concerns about the change in payment methods for HOA dues and insurance premiums, but I do not believe anyone will quibble about a significant reduction in the property and liability premium just provided to us by our State Farm agent. Even though news of the final premium has come somewhat down to the wire timing wise, we did not want to be pushy as we anticipated some decrease based on the senior underwriters site visit and property tour. Drum roll please...our premium has decreased almost \$13,000 compared to last year's Property & Liability Premium and decreased almost \$19,000 from what was originally stated as the renewal premium. This is with an approximate two-million-dollar property valuation increase.

You probably already figured it out, but that's an average savings of over \$70.00 per homeowner. I know that's quite a bit in most of our worlds and we are extremely pleased to pass on the good news. Very frankly, Charlie and I were anticipating only a couple thousand dollar decrease from this year's original premium which did reflect an increase from last year. When you have the opportunity, please pass on a thank you to Charlie Doggett and if you utilize Ben Parsons State Farm for your insurance, also thank our agent Louie Kitchen, for his efforts in obtaining our significant decrease. Oh yeah, invoices will be out soon after the first of the month.

**Irrigation:** Danny and the crew have gotten irrigation on a fairly regular cycle for us now. We need additional tech support, which is scheduled for the first week of August. Unfortunately, with a new service provider we are not very high on their schedule yet. Danny won't admit he has been camping out at the pump, but I think that is what it has taken to keep things going. The crew has also done numerous repairs and adjustments which continue. The turf seems to be going in the right direction but with the heat and little natural moisture so far it will take time.

**Amenities:** Amenity use is more popular than ever. Perhaps it is pent up COVID factor, new community members, certainly the heat with regard to pool use.

A reminder regarding the pool. We are fortunate that we have a pool lift chair and fortunate that apparently few have to utilize it. We would not have the pool lift chair if it had not been for a substantial donation from the Cecil Family, long time and truly loved residents. This note is a reminder that the pool lift chair is available for those that need it on a temporary or more long-term basis. If the reminder of the pool lift chair entices someone to come swimming, I am glad to show you how to use it. The chair works well, is very safe and easy to operate. Please see me if interested.

**Roadway Seal Coating:** Inspection of seal coating needs will occur to determine if it is reasonable to postpone this summer as a cost saving measure. The downside, of course, is future increased cost and the possibility of having to double up on sealcoating in the future.

I will sign-off now, and if someone would sign-off the heat, that would be great also.

Thank You,  
Ralph

## **Adriel Hills Maintenance Emergency Number Changed**

The maintenance emergency number has changed. If you have an emergency after hours, on weekends or holidays, call **(970) 484-3098**. Listen to the message for the emergency pager number. Dial the pager number and remain on hold while your call is routed to an available staff member. If there is no answer, leave a detailed message including phone number, and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

For ordinary maintenance, repair and improvements, homeowners are encouraged to utilize the service providers referral list located in the back of the community directory for service needs at their home.

## **Join Us for National Night Out!**

Come join your neighbors for an Ice Cream Social as part of the National Night Out Against Crime this coming **Tuesday, August 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the BBQ area of the Clubhouse**. It will be a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and reconnect with those you haven't seen in a while. Enjoy an ice cream cone and hear from the Larimer County Sheriff's Department Office of Crime Prevention about how to prevent crimes (especially scams) in our community.

## **A Hello from Kelly Harper ...**

Just a quick note from your new old bookkeeper - **I'M BACK!** Some of you may remember me from years ago when I was the office manager and bookkeeper for Adriel Hills. I cannot tell you how excited I am to be working with Ralph and the Adriel Hills community again! My husband, David, and I left Colorado in 2012 and relocated to Florida, where I continued to improve my bookkeeping skills and built a successful remote, online bookkeeping business. After many years and even a full year of RVing around the country, due to the Covid outbreak we decided to return to my home state of Wyoming to be close to family members, especially our kids and grandkids. I have provided remote online services to many clients in multiple states and therefore am more than capable of accurately and efficiently servicing AHCA's bookkeeping needs and will endeavor to work with Ralph and the Board of Directors in the absolute best interest of the community, as it is near and dear to my heart!

Of course, there will be a transition period for us all as we develop and refine processes between Ralph, the Administrative Coordinator and me to ensure that the best tools, processes, and communication methods are in place to best serve you all and in the most cost-saving and convenient manner possible. We greatly appreciate your patience as we work through these processes. Homeowners and residents should continue working with the Administrative

Coordinator in the Adriel Hills office; however, I will be available via email on a one-to-one basis as needed regarding your accounts.

Yours, Kelly

### **Speaking of Bookkeeping ... More on EFT**

The Adriel Hills Condominium Association Board of Directors, together with Management, wants to remind homeowners that new requirements will soon be in place for the payment of recurring fees. Payments will now need to be made by secure digital means.

To provide the most convenient, cost-effective, efficient, and secure NO-FEE option for homeowners to remit recurring payments, the Board has approved the expansion of the current Adriel Hills Electronic Transfer program (EFT) utilized by the majority of homeowners to have their monthly dues debited from their bank accounts to now include Adriel Court utility and annual property and liability insurance payments. Homeowners are now required to enroll in this program and have all recurring expenses paid via Adriel Hills EFT effective August 1, 2021.

The Insurance invoicing date is determined each year, depending on when final premiums are received and owner allocations are finalized. This year, our final premium was received only July 26, so calculations were delayed.

All homeowners will be required to complete and sign a new Adriel Hills EFT Authorization form to enroll in the updated program. The new form will be emailed to all homeowners during the week of August 1.

### **Freeloading Resident Gone Missing**

Some of you are asking where our formerly resident peacock, who went by various the aliases, including "DB Cooper" and "Mayura," has gone. This reporter has heard only rumors: he was relocated by the Peacock Protection Program; he volunteered for fire alarm duty in Steamboat; he's selling used cars in Greeley; he found a significant other, and they eloped to Niagara Falls, where he took a job as a barrel jumper. He might even have followed Deborah and Mike Kohler to Highland Meadows because their breakfasts were so tasty.

If any of you have kept in contact with DB Cooper and can report more authoritatively on his whereabouts and situation, please pass the word.

## **Creative Writing Group Meeting**

Wednesday, August 4, in Clubhouse. Bring your own writing or just listen to others read. Contact Judy Keiss at (970) 493-1583 for more information.

## **Volunteers Still Needed**

Thankfully, we can report that several residents have volunteered to help with some of the traditional AH social events. But these volunteers can use more of us to help them make these events a success. Please contact the folks listed below (refer to directory for contact information) if you can help. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to spend a little time helping to spread the workload and make these events successful.

Garage Sale, Saturday, August 21

Kate Engel

End of Summer Pool Party, TBD

Contact Jim Fry to volunteer to organize this. Otherwise, it won't happen.

Fall Soup Supper, Sunday, October 17, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Merete Cunningham

Holiday Party, Sunday December 12 or 19, 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Merete Cunningham

## **Garage Sale on August 21**

The Adriel Hills Annual Garage Sale will be held Saturday, August 21, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registrations forms and the \$5.00 registration fee are due by noon Friday, August 13. Please return form and fee (cash only) to any Adriel Hills drop box or to the office by the deadline.

## **Meet Our Neighbors, Carol and George Landsverk**

George grew up in Ada, Minnesota, a small town 45 miles northeast of Fargo, North Dakota. He attended Saint Olaf College one year and the University of Minnesota for 3 1/2 years, graduating with a degree in Agricultural Economics. Then he and his brother Jim decided to join the Navy and see the world. Both went to officer candidate school at Newport, Rhode Island. After five challenging months, they were commissioned Ensigns. Jim was assigned to a destroyer in the Pacific Fleet and George to air intelligence school at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida. After his four years on active duty in the Navy, George

spent 18 years in the Navy Reserve. He also signed on with Cargill, Inc., for which he worked the next 38 years.

Carol grew up in Wichita, Kansas. She attended Wichita State University and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. She taught 3rd and 4th graders and English as a Second Language to Vietnamese and Mexican children for 15 years. She taught in Clearwater and Wichita, Kansas, and in Marysville, California.

Their paths crossed when George's son and Carol's daughter encouraged them to go on a church ski trip from Wichita, Kansas, to Monarch Pass in 1981. Their pastor introduced them at the bottom of a ski slope. They skied together with friends and rode back to Wichita on the same bus. They were married in July of 1982. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Following their marriage, George's Cargill job took them to Yuba City, California. They enjoyed living two hours from San Francisco, two hours from Lake Tahoe, and two hours from Napa Valley. It was quite a change from Kansas.

Then came a very unexpected adventure. They were offered an opportunity for George to be Country Manager for Cargill in Pakistan. If he accepted, he would manage all Cargill assets there and would establish an orange juice processing plant. They were asked to travel to Pakistan before giving their answer. That trip around the world in 1989 began the amazing adventure. They prayed and visited with dear friends and family and finally agreed to accept the opportunity.

They learned that when Americans live in a foreign country they are called "expats." Expats in Lahore, Pakistan, included men and women in business from USA, Scotland, Sweden, Canada, Holland, Switzerland, and Great Britain. There were also those working in consulates and embassies, missionaries from various churches, American teachers who taught at the American School, and many tourists.

Their greatest privilege was getting to know the Pakistani people, who were very hospitable and generous to them. They learned that when invited to someone's home for tea at 5:00, they were to arrive at 5:00, and tea would be served promptly from a tea trolley with both sweet and savory choices and that it would be so filling that another meal that evening would be unnecessary. They experienced their most embarrassing moment when they assumed that an invitation to a wedding or a large business party would also start on time. They arrived very hungry at a large gathering a bank was having and no one was there. At least two hours later the buffet was laid out as people began arriving. Carol and George were so hungry that they ate all the pistachios in little dishes set out for snacks before anyone else arrived.

One of the most frequent social occasions they were involved in were weddings. Muslim weddings are usually held in large colorful tents called Shamihanas. The bride and

groom would arrive about two hours after the guests. The bride would wear red, gold or other colored dresses covered with beautiful bead work. There was no ceremony. Papers were signed elsewhere. The bride and groom sat together and posed for pictures and then a buffet meal was served. In contrast, Christian marriages were held in churches, and the bride would wear a very traditional white dress. Pakistani marriages were often arranged by parents of the groom. If the marriage was not arranged, it was called a love marriage.

The Muslim Holy Day is Friday. Therefore, Christians attended church on Friday as well. Carol and George attended an International Christian Fellowship Church (ICF) which met on the campus of a college started by the Presbyterian Church. They attended with other Pakistanis and expats--British, Swedish, Chinese, Ethiopian, Iranian and American Christians. The Holy Day was the only day that Carol and George drove themselves in Pakistan. The roads were less crowded and driving a car on the left side of the road with a stick shift and the steering wheel on the right side of the car was far less challenging.

The markets varied. Some had actual buildings, and others were open air stalls. The bargains and bargaining mostly went on in the open-air stalls that sold cloth and clothing, furniture, etc. Those who did not bargain were sure to pay more. The most beautiful market was the flower market. There were many varieties because the weather in Lahore was generally good for growing -- except for the summers which often reached 100 to 120 degrees.

One of the most fascinating places in Lahore was the Old Walled City. It had narrow, winding paths for shoppers to walk among shops that sold brass and copper pots, jewelry, delicious naan bread and sweets. It was exotic even during the day. Pakistanis love hot tea, chai and a wonderful pink tea called Kashmiri tea. George and Carol had Kashmiri tea only once, and that was in the old city.

Carol experienced the honor of hearing Mother Theresa speak at one of Mother Theresa's orphanages in Lahore, where Carol helped with the children. Both Carol and George also enjoyed attending polo games and learning that the game of polo originated in Northwest Pakistan. They enjoyed the bagpipes that were often played between the polo games. They grew to love the naan bread and chapatis and curry flavored meats and lentils. A highlight of their time was traveling to northwest Pakistan to Swat Valley and Gilget. They also enjoyed hiking in the Murree Hills outside the capital city of Islamabad. They could see the second highest mountain in the world, K-2, from there.

During their almost eight years living in Pakistan they traveled to many countries, some on business and some just as tourists. Among those were Brazil, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, Japan, India, Australia, Switzerland, Germany, Indonesia, and France, and many times to Singapore, Cargill's Southeast Asia regional office.

Carol and George bid Pakistan good-by in July 1996. George's last job with Cargill was in Washington, D.C. They lived in Vienna, Virginia, and George rode the Metro to work. His office was located 2 blocks north of the White House. While living in Virginia they traveled one last time with Cargill to Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia. It was a special gift to conclude George's 38 years with Cargill in this way. George enjoyed his job in D.C., as well as absorbing the history of the area.

Carol and George have loved their 23 years in Adriel Hills. They love its charm and taking in its breathtaking views on their walks around the neighborhood. In addition to walking, they play tennis and golf, and visit their many special friends. They are fascinated by the hummingbirds, and appreciate the creativity displayed in residents' amazing flower gardens and courtyards. They say that their daughter was 100% right when she said, "Adriel Hills is where you need to live!!!!"

## **AUGUST CALENDAR**

### **Administrative and Management Office Hours**

Administrative Office M-F 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Management Office Hours M-F 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Lunch approximately 12:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **Community Activities/Events**

National Night Out Against Crime Tuesday, August 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the BBQ area of the Clubhouse.

Clubhouse/Library/Pool Daily 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Tennis MWF 8 - 9:30 a.m.

Pickle Ball (Tennis Courts) Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8:30 - 10:00 a.m. (beginner)  
Tuesday, Saturday 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.; Thursday 7:00 p.m. (advanced)

Book Club Last Wednesday of each month 10:00 a.m. in Clubhouse

Game Night Thursday 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Clubhouse

Wine & Unwind                      Tuesday 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Grassy area behind Kedron Drive units (weather permitting)  
Location: Clubhouse (weather not-permitting)

Garage Sale                              Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## **Maintenance Projects**

*Scheduling may change due to weather or other factors*

With continued irrigation uncertainties, the following schedule regarding the golf course is tentative.

### Greens Applications:

Spray - Tuesday, August 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Granular - Tuesday, August 10 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, August 24 <sup>th</sup>
Tuesday, August 31 <sup>st</sup>	

Granular application typically does not take as long to apply as the spray applications.

Remember that the golf course is re-opened only once the flags have been placed on the greens.

A firm schedule for the typical August greens aeration is not yet determined. This is due to heat and uncertainty regarding irrigation and to not further stress the greens. If it is scheduled, it typically occurs early in the week during the latter half of August. Once determined, notice will be provided.

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Board Meeting                      Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm via ZOOM

(Connection to zoom meeting will be available on the Board agenda the week prior to the meeting); agenda and Treasurer’s Report will be emailed or distributed to pigeonholes for homeowners and posted on the website.