

# SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Serving Southern Gables and Valley View



[SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com](http://SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com)

FALL NEWSLETTER, 2021

## A NOTE FROM THE SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT, DOUG WHITTEN

**SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORHOOD IS COMING BACK!** Our great neighborhood recently had two great events where neighbors, students, parents and friends all participated.

**First**, the Neighborhood had eight successful block parties of over 240 neighbors participated in afternoon pot-lucks and good neighbor chat and companionship. Neighbors were able to reunite after many months of isolation. In addition, many new neighbors to Southern Gables met many of their neighbors for the first time. Just a great time by all and hope the Block Parties continue next year.

**Second**, the Southern Gables Neighborhood Night Out held on September 24, 2021 was attended by over 560 neighbors, parents, students and friends. There were free hot dogs, free ice cream from Magill's, Face Painting by students from Bear Creek High School, a Bouncy House provided by Westwoods Community Church, as well as many other community/business participants. In addition, a DJ helped move the night along and helped with the drawing for three \$100.00 gift certificates.

Plans are already underway for next fall's Neighborhood Night Out which is tentatively scheduled for August 26, 2022 with more businesses involved with our tote-bags being delivered to the neighborhood.

**BOTH OF THESE EVENTS WERE GREAT! THANKS  
SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORS - YOU ARE THE BEST!**

Sincerely,  
*Doug Whitten*

## COLLABORATION and ASSISTANCE WANTED and NEEDED

Are you interested in helping move the Southern Gables neighborhood forward? The Southern Gables Neighborhood Association, SGNA, would like to have community-minded neighbors to be involved in the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. SGNA is reaching out to all of its Southern Gables neighbors who want to assist and implement ideas and strategies to make our dynamic neighborhood even better. Quarterly Board meetings and the Annual Membership meeting attendance are a must for all Board members. **HELP.** Let's make Southern Gables GREAT! Please share your interest in an email to [SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com](mailto:SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com). In the meantime, please visit our website, [SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com](http://SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com) to learn more about this terrific place where you live.

Board positions, incumbents, and open positions that YOU might fill are listed on page 4.

## VOTE!

Statewide propositions, City  
Council, School Board,  
and Lakewood Ballot Issue

**November 2, 2021.** Ballots and information booklets have already been mailed. Information on the municipal election can be found at [Lakewood.org/elections](http://Lakewood.org/elections). Both of our City Council Representative positions for Ward 5 are open. For the School Board, you can see pertinent election information on [jeffcopublicschools.org](http://jeffcopublicschools.org) | About | Election 2021.

**We All Want to Do Good Things for the Neighborhood.** Since our last full newsletter in the fall of 2019, the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association has made donations to organizations and activities that provide support to our neighborhood. These included The Action Center, Lakewood Police Toy Fund, Green Gables Elementary School, Carmody Middle School, and Westwoods Community Church for their community assistance programs and for Joy's Kitchen which operates out of their building. Together with funding the neighborhood block parties that we sponsored in August and "Neighborhood Night Out" in September of this year, our application of the dues and donations received is always mindful of our charter, to "Encourage a cohesive community by providing opportunities for social activities and supporting worthy local civic organizations."

## Leaf Collection Day

**Southern Gables Neighborhood Association, Sustainable Southern Gables and Westwoods Community Church will again sponsor the collection and composting of leaves from the Southern Gables Neighborhood.**

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021

Time: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

Location: Green Gables Elementary School

**Southern Gables Neighbors: Save your leaves.** Bring your leaves to Green Gables Elementary School, 8701 W. Woodard Drive, in the school parking lot. (Please only leaves – NO tree branches or any other trash.) Bring them in bags, tied loosely. We will try to save the bags for re-use, and return them to you if you want them.

**Neighbors Who Need Help Raking:** On Friday, November 5, 2021 students from Denver Christian Middle School will be raking the lawns of senior citizens in our neighborhood from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The bags of leaves will be left on the edge of the yard and picked up by volunteers on Saturday morning, Nov. 6, 2021. We are excited to be partnering with Denver Christian Middle School students again this year who are volunteering their services for the senior citizens. Contact Judy Whitten at 303-986-7157 or [jewhitten@comcast.net](mailto:jewhitten@comcast.net) to sign up or to nominate a senior citizen or disabled Southern Gables neighbor who needs help.

**Come and Help!** We need volunteers to help at the Drop-Off Station and leaf pick up on Saturday, Nov. 6th. Contact Judy Whitten at 303-086-7157 or [jewhitten@comcast.net](mailto:jewhitten@comcast.net) to sign up to be a part of this big day in our Southern Gables Neighborhood.

Drop Off Is ONLY on Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, for Southern Gables Neighbors ONLY!

## What's Happening?

- **Lakewood Flick-or-Treat** Saturday, October 30 from 2:30 to 8:30 PM at Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park. Come in costume to join festivities for all ages: a beer garden costume contest for adults, trick-or-treating for the kids and a screening of *Hocus Pocus* at the amphitheater. Details at [www.Lakewood.org/Halloween](http://www.Lakewood.org/Halloween).
- **Southern Gables Annual Leaf Collecting and Composting Day** at the Green Gables Elementary School parking lot on Woodard Avenue. Saturday, November 6, 8 AM to 1 PM.
- **Southern Gables Neighborhood Luncheons** are the first Thursday of each month, 11:30 AM. Meet and converse with your neighbors. The November luncheon will be at Valley Inn, 1997 South Wadsworth Boulevard. Future monthly locations will be listed on the Southern Gables Neighborhood Facebook page, [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com), and on the "Events" page of our website, [southerngablesneighborhoodassociation.com](http://southerngablesneighborhoodassociation.com).
- **Ward 5 Meetings** are the first Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00 AM at the Westwoods Community Church, 7700 W. Woodard Drive. Our City Council Ward 5 representatives conduct these meetings on topics of interest and there is always lively and pertinent discussion.
- **Got a problem?** Do you have questions or complaints about how things should be done to keep up our standards in the Neighborhood? If you have property concerns, you can check out [lakewood.org/codeenforcement](http://lakewood.org/codeenforcement) to research the rules and find out how to contact the right City enforcement agency to handle the problem.

## Gardening in Southern Gables

This is the fifth year for the community garden at Green Gables School. It is a partnership with the school, Denver Urban Gardens (DUG), Sustainable Southern Gables, and the neighborhood in general.

Last year was complicated with the pandemic and only a few of us were allowed in the garden at a time. This year has been a bit better – rules have relaxed somewhat.

There are 24 plots that are maintained by families most of whom live in Southern Gables.

### For the Students

There are raised beds for use by the school, each of which is associated with a specific grade. Teachers and students spend time in the garden and plant and harvest their vegetables. The school also has a Garden Club facilitated by teachers and volunteers from the Community Garden. Students in the club learn about seeds, plants, pollinators, and more.

### For the Community

And there are community plots, providing produce such as raspberries, strawberries, rhubarb, herb, pumpkins, wildflowers. Gardeners volunteer to

water and take care of the community plots and the school plots during the summer.

We have a short waiting list for garden plots next year. There are always a few openings. If you are interested in a plot for 2022, you can contact [GablesGarden@gmail.com](mailto:GablesGarden@gmail.com).

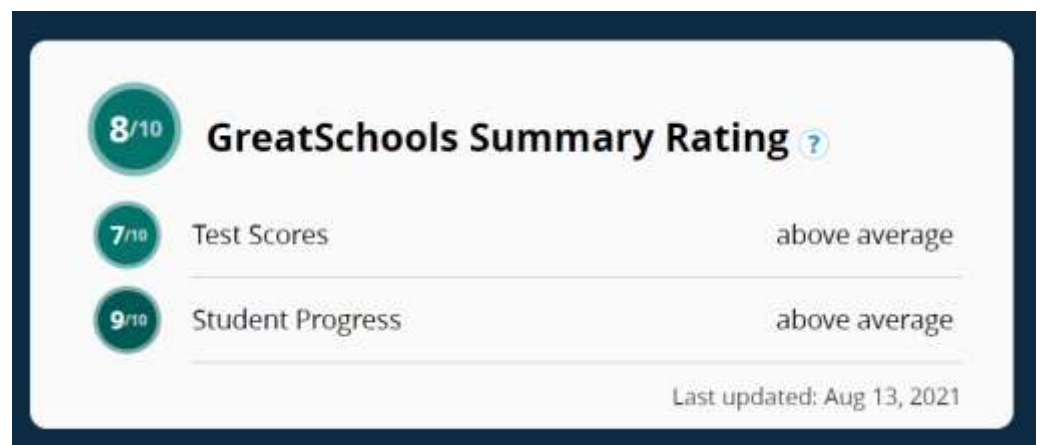
### More Community Support

A new activity this year has been to collect extra harvest and take it to Joy's Kitchen on the days they distribute food. Over the summer, the school plots and gardener plots have contributed. Joy's Kitchen really appreciates fresh vegetables that they can give out.

**Joy's Kitchen** is a food bank in our neighborhood that operates out of Westwood Community Church. Our Southern Gables Neighborhood Association has made donations to them in past years. They joined us in our recent Neighborhood Night Out, and provided the hotdogs as well as information about their stated mission, "Save food, love people." It is a small activity that depends almost entirely on volunteers and donations. If you can contribute either, then check in at: [joyskitchen.org](http://joyskitchen.org).

Here's a nice thing to know. This is the summary rating assessment of Green Gables Elementary School from the independent rating agency [greatschools.com](http://greatschools.com). We are especially proud of the "Student Progress" score, which means "Students... are making far more academic progress given where they were last year, compared to similar students in the state."

"High progress with high test scores" means students have strong academic skills and the school is doing an excellent job at supporting academic growth compared to most other schools.



## SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD

**President:** Doug Whitten, 303-986-7157  
whittend@comcast.net

**Vice President:** Bruce McDonald, 303-526-8844  
bruce.mcdonald@hotmail.com

**Secretary:** *Open - Looking for a volunteer.*

**Treasurer:** Bruce Loftis, 720-235-9830,  
bruce.loftis@gmail.com

**Area 1:** (Between Estes St, Garrison St, Woodard Ave, and Jewell Ave.) *Open - Looking for a volunteer.*

**Area 2:** (Between the Ag Ditch, Jewell Ave, Carr St, and Woodard Dr.) *Open - Looking for a volunteer.*

**Area 3:** (Between Evans Pl, Carr St, Woodard Dr, and Allison St.) Erwin Bunzli, 303-985-9083, ebunzli@q.com

**Area 4:** (East of Allison St, west of Wadsworth Blvd.) *Open - Looking for a volunteer.*

**Area 5:** (Valley View north of Morrison Rd, east of Garrison, south of Iliff Ln.) Lisa Huntington-Kinn, 303-808-8260, lisa@hkrealstateco.com

**Area 6:** (East of Estes St, south of Woodard Dr.) *Open - Looking for a volunteer.*

**Area 7:** (Flower Way, Flower Ct, Flower St, Warren Dr east of Estes.) *Open - Looking for a volunteer.*

**Area 8:** (Field St, Field Way, Everett St, Estes Way, Estes St, south side of Woodard Dr.) Frank Bontrager, 303-987-3042, flbontrager@comcast.net

**At Large:** Ken Fischer, 303-472-9746, blazerwood@gmail.com

Contact Doug Whitten if you will consider offering your talents to the community by joining or helping the Board.

We are grateful to Erwin Bunzli for distributing the newsletter to the 1000 homes in our neighborhood.

## Timely Tips for Fall Lawn Care

*You can let regular watering go, now that the grass can go dormant.*

You have probably blown out your sprinklers by now if they aren't the self-draining kind. Still, if the winter starts off exceedingly dry, you can give the grass a little water with a hose sprinkler if it makes you feel better. Be sure to disconnect the hose afterward though, to protect against the next freeze. Once the winter gets serious, you can truly be off the watering regime.

### Bald spots are hereditary

An area that got stressed or worn out over the summer will not heal itself and produce a healthy new generation next year. Now is a good time to do the repair. Use a seeding product made for patch work. The bag or box will tell you to keep the soil moist. We still have enough warm days left to give the sprouts a good start with frequent watering and then they will go dormant along with the older grass generation, rarin' to grow next spring.

### Rake your leaves

If you keep the leaves on the ground thinking they will provide some beneficial insulation, that's not what will happen. As the sunlight dwindles, leaves that stay on your yard will block the remaining sunlight and encourage mold growth. If you really want to use them for mulch right where they are, or in a garden bed, chop them up into tiny pieces with your lawn mower. If you will not be using the processed leaves for mulch or compost, whatever you do don't throw them into the trash. Be sure to get them into our **Southern Gables Leaf Collection Day** event on November 6 at Green Gables Elementary. We will have them made into compost so they will benefit the environment and not go to waste in a landfill.

### Give it a crewcut.

In the summer the grass likes to be cut on the high side, 3 inches or so, to help retain moisture. Now is the time to adjust your mower and cut it at about 2 inches or a little less. That will keep the blades of grass from being pressed down into a matted moldy mess under the snow. On that subject, if you can, avoid piling the snow high on the lawn where it turns into glaciers that last long into spring. Your lawn will thank you.

Check out [SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com](http://SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com).

The top page has a new story every week. You can "Subscribe" to get notifications when they are published. Details about the Association are on the "About" page. There is an "Events" page, and a "Contact" page to reach Association Board members for questions and concerns.