

SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Serving Southern Gables and Valley View



SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2022

A NOTE FROM ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT DOUG WHITTEN

We all are coming off of a very difficult two-year experience. All indications are businesses, organizations and people in general are trying to get "back to normal." As we talk to local businesses to participate in our Selected Business Participants, many businesses are still struggling to get back to the level they all experienced at the end of 2019. Also, almost every business is trying to hire employees back to that level as well, but not much of an available work force. We will persevere.

Southern Gables neighborhood experienced one of its larger **Neighborhood Night Out (NNO)** events this past September. Over 700 neighbors, parents and students attended as well as some businesses and local organizations who had booths. In addition, the neighborhood had nine Summer Picnics hosted by a variety of neighbors throughout our neighborhood. In all, we had approximately 289 neighbors participate in this tremendous street/cul-de-sac experience. **NNO** is scheduled for August 26, 2022 this year and the Neighborhood Picnics likely beginning in June.

Mrs. Suanne Hawley, current principal at Green Gables Elementary School, will be leaving us at the end of this school year to become Executive Director of Early Childhood Learning for Jefferson County Schools. Through Mrs. Hawley's leadership of six years, Green Gables Elementary School has made exceptional improvement in student learning. Green Gables

Elementary School has become a much, much better school under her leadership. **In addition**, the Southern Gables neighborhood has become a better neighborhood as a result of the improvement at Green Gables Elementary School. **THANK YOU MRS. HAWLEY**, you will be missed!

In this Spring Newsletter, you will see information on activities and events happening in the Southern Gables neighborhood. Please attend the ANNUAL MEETING on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm in the Cafeteria at Green Gables Elementary School. Everyone will hear/see the current status of our Association, hear from/visit with our two new Ward 5 City Councilors, and the election of officers for the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association will be held at the conclusion of the meeting. Your current President is not running again, so there will be some newer faces for you to meet at this meeting. I want to thank everyone for their service and dedication for the six years I was President. Some very, very positive results have occurred for our neighbors. But, in addition, I am most pleased with some of the friendships with the neighbors Judy and I have acquired. For that, we are extremely grateful to all of the great Southern Gables neighbors. And yes, we will still be on W. Iliff Lane.

Sincerely,
Doug Whitten

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING MAY 3

The Annual Membership meeting of the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association will be held at Green Gables Elementary School on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 AT 7:00 PM. Ward 5 Council Members Wendi Strom and Mary Janssen have been invited to be there and visit with neighbors. The annual election of Neighborhood Association Board members for the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association will be conducted. All the neighbors of Southern Gables are invited and encouraged to attend.

Southern Gables Neighborhood Association Dues

Association dues are \$20 per year. Dues paid in April and after will cover the period to May 2023. Dues can be paid by check using the envelope attached to this newsletter, by PayPal on the Association website, by Venmo @SGNA-Lakewood, or in person at the annual meeting. Dues are voluntary and the membership benefits are that you participate in the ongoing work of the Association to benefit our community.

Ash Trees Facing a Showdown

By Ken Fischer

We have lots of ash trees in Southern Gables. They provide shade in the summer and bright yellow color in the fall. The ash is a historically resilient tree with a widespread range. Ash represent 15% of trees in the U.S. Now we are faced with a creeping invasion of their nemesis, the emerald ash borer. Even with all the damage done by the infamous pine bark beetle in our forests, the ash borer is now the most destructive tree insect pest ever to have been introduced into the United States.

The ash borer is getting close. It was found in Arvada in the summer of 2020. The Arvada Forestry Department is taking immediate measures to combat its spread, primarily treating the surrounding soil with chemicals. Nevertheless, the bug is moving south.

Symptoms, according to the Colorado State Forestry Service, include “branch dieback near the top, D-shaped exit holes 1/8-inch wide, serpentine tunnels under the bark and new sprouts on the trunk and branches.

The key time is May and early summer for infestation and treatment. Proactively checking your ash trees for evidence of infestation can give you a head start on preventing further damage.

Trees with larger circumference are more prone to loss, and smaller ash trees are more effectively treated.

Even though no evidence of its presence has yet been seen in Lakewood, if you have a concern you can get an established arborist or tree company to conduct an analysis.

Incidentally, if you had a hard time with the question in the headline because you are not sure what an ash tree looks like, “there’s an app for that.” The Lakewood Forestry Department recommends the EAB/Ash Tree ID app for both Apple and Android devices. Simply search the app store for “ash tree.” Pictorial images of the bug and its trail can be googled under “emerald ash borer.”

Ken Fischer retired from the Lakewood Police Department as a Senior Sergeant. He is an experienced woodsman and now runs a firewood business.

What’s Happening?

- **Lakewood Summer Concerts at the Heritage Center** Wednesday evenings June 15 through July 27. Info on concerts and other events at Lakewood.org on the “Community” tab, under “Arts & Culture.”
- **Southern Gables Neighborhood Luncheons** are held monthly, usually at a local restaurant. The May luncheon will be a picnic instead: Thursday May 12, 11:30 at Kendrick Lakes Park, 9351 W. Jewell in the Pavilion. Pizza, Salad, and Lemonade for \$5.00. RSVP: Judy Whitten, 303-986-7157 or jewhitten@comcast.net. Future monthly locations will be listed on the Southern Gables Neighborhood Facebook page, nextdoor.com, and on the “Events” page of our website, southerngablesneighborhoodassociation.com.
- **Evening Get-Togethers** have been in hiatus for a while but this is the idea: lawn chairs and potluck with neighbors in driveways or front yards in the warm months. The Association will publicize to the neighborhood and provide a bottle of wine for a door prize. Who’s next? You pick the date. Volunteer, SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.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 to research the rules and find out how to contact the right City enforcement agency to handle the problem.

A SAFER SOUTHERN GABLES. As the weather warms and we head outdoors, please remain alert to keep our neighbors and guests safe. We live in a great neighborhood with increasingly more children and we want them and everyone to be able to safely enjoy biking, skateboarding, walking their pups, and more. A neighborhood Girl Scout Troop (Troop 65449) has put together safety tips for their Bronze Award project with the goal of improved neighborhood safety. Please read through the enclosed flyer with your family, put it on the fridge, and do what you can to create a safer neighborhood. Thank you to Sustainable Southern Gables for their support of this project.

Using Your Yard to Support Wildlife in Southern Gables

... and to support a healthy environment.

By Kristen De Lay

I recently read a wonderful book called "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard", by Doug Tallamy, which inspired me to see my yard as a place to feed and support wildlife vs just a place to grow pretty flowers, You'll also lower your water bill, lessen time spent mowing and attract more wildlife.

Here are 7 ways you can participate in this vision:

1. **Reduce Your Lawn** - Tallamy's call is to reduce our lawns by half and replace them with native plants. If that feels like too big of a project, simply remove a small section and add a native tree or small native perennial bed.
2. **Plant natives** - The Colorado Native Plant Society and Front Range Wild Ones offers some great resources for native plant selections. They can be tricky to find, but more options are becoming available as gardeners request from local nurseries. Harlequin's Gardens in Boulder and the High Plains Environmental Center in Loveland offer some great selections at reasonable prices. Google Search for a document called "Low Water Native Plants for Colorado Gardens: Front Range & Foothills" and you'll find some great information on the best plants.
3. **Build a conservation hardscape** - Here are some positive steps you can take toward that effort.
 - Place covers over deep window wells
 - Choose motion sensor lights vs always-on lights
 - Mow grass no lower than 3-4 inches for a healthier lawn and avoid mowing near dusk
 - Use water features to attract birds
 - Opt for small bee hotels with only 4-5 holes vs one large one to make it harder for predators and parasites to find the bees in one location.
4. **Remove invasive species** - I wrote an article for our neighborhood about "Invasive Plant Species in the Neighborhood" [*On the Association website, July 1, 2020*] that shares several plants that are prominent in our area. These plants take space away from beneficial plants and spread like crazy.
5. **Be generous with your plantings** and plant in drifts of 3-5 plants vs one plant here or there. This provides a larger surface area, making it easier for birds and insects to find. They also create a healthier environment for the plants and can help prevent weeds.
6. **Be a lazy gardener!** Leave the leaves in fall and wait until spring temps are consistently above 50 degrees before cutting back the winter die-off. Many insects lay their pupae in leaf litter and many native bees lay their babies in plant stalks that stay up through winter.
7. **Do not spray pesticides** - Fertilize and avoid buying plants grown with neonicotinoids. When insects feed from these plants, it actually kills them, as the herbicide comes from within the plants.

If you choose to take steps to use your yard as a habitat, I'd be happy to share what we've learned as we have converted our yard from a Kentucky Bluegrass yard, to one that is biodiverse, requires little maintenance and uses very little additional water, compared to a traditional lawn.

Kristen De Lay is an avid gardener with a special interest in native plants and creating wildlife habitats. She is a member and volunteer for the Colorado Native Plant Society and for Sustainable Southern Gables.

Check out our neighborhood website SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com and "Subscribe" (follow.it) to get notifications when new articles are published.

Get Involved.

Help make our good neighborhood better. Be a part of the solution. Become an Association Board Member. Contact any Board member (list on page 4) or SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com

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.) Dave Wood, 720-326-0844
mdwood@msn.com

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

Get Involved in Making a Better Neighborhood.

Become an Association Board Member.
Contact any Board member or email
SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com.



April 2022

Dear Incredible Green Gables Community,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to announce my departure from Green Gables Elementary at the end of this school year. As so often occurs in life, an unexpected opportunity presented itself, and I made the difficult decision to pursue it. I have accepted the position as the Director of Early Learning for Jeffco Schools. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the principal of Green Gables for the past six years, and I am a better person and professional because of the experiences I have had during this time. I have said many times during my tenure as principal that Green Gables is "a special little place". I am so proud, thankful and blessed to have been able to serve the amazing students, families, teachers and neighbors who I care about professionally and personally. In many ways this has been the most important work of my career.

I know that Green Gables has structures and processes in place that provide the foundation for a shared leadership model that will continue to thrive and make decisions that put students first. Green Gables students, staff, families and neighbors make an exceptional community and this school has always felt like a family. I appreciate your support of our little neighborhood school and the next principal will be fortunate to be part of an incredible community.

With that I leave you with one of my favorite Winnie the Pooh quotes, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

Thank you for all your support and kindness over the years.

With Gratitude,

Suanne Hawley

Doing Good for the Neighborhood. Since our newsletter last fall, the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association has made donations to organizations and activities that provide support to our neighborhood. These included providing Magill's gift certificates for a Carmody Middle School fundraiser, the Lakewood Police Toy Fund, Westwoods Community Church for their community assistance programs, Joy's Kitchen, and the Green Gables Elementary School Giving Tree Program. We also made a matching grant to fund a City-approved traffic mitigation measure that was petitioned for by residents. The Association is mindful of our charter, to "Encourage a cohesive community by providing opportunities for social activities and supporting worthy local civic organizations."