

Southern Gables

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Serving Southern Gables and Valley View



SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2023

FREE TACOS AT THE ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING MAY 2

The Annual Membership meeting of the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association will be held at Green Gables Elementary School on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. The Sustainable Southern Gables organization will provide a Free Taco Bar to kick off the meeting at 6:30, and will present information about upcoming projects and classes (see page 2). Mayor Paul and Ward 5 Council Members Wendi Strom and Mary Janssen have been invited to be there and visit with neighbors. The annual report to members of the Association's activities and accomplishments, and election of Board officers will be conducted. All the neighbors of Southern Gables, Association members and non-members alike, are invited and encouraged to attend.

Community Garage Sale Weekend

Friday May 19 & Saturday May 20, 8 AM – 5 PM

It has been a few years since we had a neighborhood-wide garage sale weekend, but here we go, even bigger than before! We are teaming up with our neighbors to the west, Park West and The Ridge for 2 days of shopping and fun. Please call or text Marci DeMott at 303-319-3177 no later than May 11, with your address, in order to be added to the map of participating homes. If you have any specialty items such as books, baby furniture, antiques, tools, sporting goods, etc., please be sure to mention that as well. We're looking forward to a successful event for all.

Shake it up! We all like to be involved in making our community even better. Still, there are always opportunities to shake things up a little in your life: shift your focus, learn new things, meet new people. We have a list of local volunteer opportunities on our Southern Gables website. Go to bit.ly/sg-vol.

A NOTE FROM ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT BRUCE MCDONALD

With spring in the air, our thoughts turn to the coming pleasant weather, blue-sky days, spring cleanup and energizing walks around our beautiful neighborhood. And what a neighborhood! People in our Southern Gables community are friendly and helpful to each other, and that makes our job as your Neighborhood Association easy. The job:

Help make our great neighborhood even better.

Looking back a few months, we marked the fall season with a successful leaf collection day despite the snowy setback, and finished the year with our charter responsibility of supporting local organizations. These included Green Gables Elementary and Carmody Middle Schools, Lakewood Police Toy Fund, our local Cub Scout pack, Denver Christian School and Botanic Gardens Chatfield both for Leaf Day support, Joy's Kitchen, and Westwoods Community Church for community support programs.

Looking forward, we will set up a garage sale weekend and again sponsor summer block parties (details on p.2) and we're already working on our Neighborhood Night Out in August. That's our big event when neighbors meet and enjoy DJ music, visit old friends and make new ones, play some games, chat with local business vendors, enjoy free hot dogs, chips, and lemonade, and watch the kids bounce.

All in all, I'm so glad to live in such a great place! I hope you are too, and if you want to keep making it even better, join us!

– Bruce McDonald

Check out our neighborhood website

SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com for neighborhood information, events, and weekly articles of local interest. "Subscribe" (follow.it) to get notifications when new articles are published.

Spring Salad

One of the great things about Southern Gables is being so close to world-class cultural events as well as participation events for good healthy fun. It's a rich and varied mix! Here's a spring and summer selection of what's coming up.

Stravinsky's Firebird by Ballet Ariel. Firebird tells the story of the downfall of a powerful immortal through firebird intervention. \$24-30. April 29-30, Lakewood Cultural Center.

Gentle Yoga. Worried that Yoga is too pretzel inducing? Gentle Yoga is a low-intensity yoga style that offers the same great benefits. Free. May 11, June 8, July 13, Lakewood Main Library.

Ana Vidovic. Ana is a world-renowned, classical guitar prodigy from Croatia. Examples of her material include Bach, Francisco Tarrega, and Astor Piazzola. \$30 adult, \$25 senior. May 20, Englewood Arts Center.

Rockin' Block Party. Denver's most "unique" 80s cover band followed by a showing of the sci-fi classic, *Back to the Future*. Includes food trucks and a beer garden. Free. June 3, Belmar Park.

Watercolor for Everyone Workshop. Want to mix watercolors and get something other than brown? Learn about simple materials, color mixing basics, and other essential information to get you started on what watercolor is all about. \$45. June 10, August 5, Washington Heights Arts Center.

Big Belmar Bash. A community gathering to include music, kids' activities, 80 local vendors, food, and drinks, culminating in a drone light show at approximately 9:15 p.m. Free. July 3, Belmar.

Shakedown Street. A cover band with instrumental prowess and vocals that closely matches the magic of the Grateful Dead. Free, Aug. 3, Levitt Pavilion in Ruby Hill Park.

Southern Gables Association dues are voluntary, \$20 per year, and help do good things for the community. Dues can be paid by check to the P.O. Box address on the first page, by Venmo or PayPal (on the website or QRC below) or in person to any Board member.



Venmo @SGNA-Lakewood
20.00 pers, 20.49 bsns



PayPal
20.55

Thanks, Frank!

Goodbye and thank you Frank Bontrager! Frank and Leta Bontrager lived in Southern Gables for 35 years. The last 10 years here, Frank gave his time and energy to our Southern Gables Neighborhood Association Board. Frank's many contributions to the Association included participating in the preparations and celebration of our Neighborhood Night Out, as well as handing out various notices regarding neighborhood happenings to residents. Frank is most proud (as he should be!) of his effort to spearhead a new sign welcoming people into our neighborhood at Estes and Jewell. After an extensive process, which included getting needed approvals from the Agricultural Ditch Company which owns the property, and then going through a number of steps to make certain the sign looked beautiful and was easy to maintain, Frank and his committee created a beautiful, truly welcoming sign which makes a fantastic first impression to anyone coming into our neighborhood. We will miss Frank and Leta tremendously. Happily, although the Bontragers live in a nearby neighborhood, they promised they would join in on a number of yearly events our neighborhood puts on. We'll be so glad to see them. The Southern Gables Neighborhood Association will always be grateful for Frank's great contributions to our neighborhood!

Invasive Beetle Killing Beautiful Ash Trees – The Emerald Ash Borer –

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to migrate south from its ground zero start in the Boulder area in 2013. Officials have confirmed dead ash trees caused by the EAB in Arvada. This invasive pest is predicted to kill almost all ash trees as it spreads across the state. If you have a treasured ash tree on your property that is healthy, it may not be too late to save it. A certified arborist can help you determine the best course of action. Read our recent article with more information about the EAB on our neighborhood website: go to bit.ly/sg-eab.

Sustainable Southern Gables

“What is Sustainable Southern Gables?” We are neighborhood volunteers who plan events, activities, and projects to make our neighborhood a more sustainable and more connected place. The magic of Lakewood’s Sustainable Neighborhoods Program is that everyone gets to work on environmental activities and projects they are passionate about – things like gardening, biking, protecting pollinators, conserving water and energy, composting, and much more. Over the years, these passions are one of the keys to our success, and another key has been the partnerships we’ve developed with groups like the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association, Green Gables Elementary School, Fleischer Family Farm, Westwoods Community Church, and others.

Ten years ago, Sustainable Southern Gables was selected as Lakewood’s third Sustainable Neighborhood. Over the past 10 years, Sustainable Southern Gables has planned over 175 projects, workshops, and special events, and we’ve engaged thousands of participants in our activities. One of our most recognizable projects has been building and running the School/Community Garden at Green Gables Elementary School. Other projects have included speakers, bike events, leaf composting, chicken-keeping classes, workshops, seed swaps, and many more.

Celebrate with us at the Neighborhood Association annual meeting on May 2nd (details, page 1) and join us in making Southern Gables even more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Little Free Libraries are for lovers – book lovers!

Drop off a book you’ve finished reading, and pick up a new book. Sharing the love of reading. Our neighbors sponsor these libraries and do a fantastic job providing these resources for our neighborhood.

Paula and Branden Garner, 2148 So. Yarrow St – Dark Blue House

Paul Fleischer, 2005 So. Zephyr Ct. – White Library (Fleischer Family Farm)

Jody Tafoya, 8340 W. Evans Pl – Brown Library

Green Gables Elementary School, So. Estes & W. Asbury Ave. – White with black trim

Shayna and Sam Wood, 8804 W. Asbury Ave. – Green Library

What’s Happening?

- **Southern Gables Neighborhood Luncheons** are held monthly, first Thursdays at 11:30 at local restaurants. The May 4 luncheon will be different: a picnic at Kendrick Lake Park with pizza, cookies, lemonade and water provided for \$5. RSVP: Judy Whitten, jewhitten@comcast.net 303-986-7157. You can always find location information on the “Events” page of our website, southernablesneighborhoodassociation.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. The next meeting will be May 6. Our City Council Ward 5 representatives hold these meetings on various topics throughout the year.
- **Neighborhood Garage Sale Weekend** Friday May 19 and Saturday May 20. Southern Gables, Valley View, and Parkwest Ridge. Sign up to get on the list: see item on page 1.
- **Neighborhood Night Out** Friday August 25, 5:00 – 8:00 PM at Green Gables Elementary School.

Summer Block Parties

Summertime! We love it. And what better way to mark the season by getting a big party going in the driveway or even out in the street! The Neighborhood Association will again be sponsoring block parties in July and early August, with stipends of \$100 to block party hosts. Apply by email to SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com. **But how about a BIG block party?** Lakewood’s got you! The City’s Get Together Program is designed to bring neighbors together around a shared purpose, activity or project. Sponsored projects are eligible for grants up to \$500. In addition to things like a neighborhood cleanup or an entryway beautification project, they will also fund block parties, with a higher limit up to \$500. Craft an idea with your neighbors, submit an application for approval, complete the contract, hold your event, and submit a summary along with receipts and photos to receive reimbursement. Details: Lakewood.org/GTgrant.

SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD

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

Vice President: Lisa Huntington-Kinn,
303-808-8260 lisa@hkrealestateco.com

Secretary: Liza Patty, 720-980-2698
LizaRPatty@gmail.com

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

Area 1: (Between Garrison Street, Estes Street, Jewell Ave and Woodard Drive)
Marci DeMott 303-319-3177
marcidemott@gmail.com

Area 2: (Between Estes Street, Carr Street, Jewell Ave and Woodard Dr) Carolyn Wolfrum
303-915-5503 cwolfrum93@gmail.com

Area 3: (Between Carr Street and Allison Street, Jewell Ave and Woodard Dr) Erwin Bunzli
303-985-9083 ebunzli@q.com

Area 4: (East of Allison St, west of Wadsworth Blvd) Sam Sotiros, 303-716-0581
sam.sotiros@sotiros.com

Area 5: (Valley View: north of Morrison Road, both sides of Iliff Lane)
Marnie Crowe, 303-709-8927
marnie.crowe@hotmail.com

Area 6: (East of Estes Street, south of Woodard Drive) Dave Wood, 720-326-0844
mdwood@msn.com

Area 7: (Flower Way, Flower Ct, Flower Street, Warren Dr west of Flower St) Marcel Guajardo
720-939-9958 marcelceliuss@gmail.com

Area 8: (Field St, Field Way, Everett St, Estes Way, Estes St, south side of Woodard Dr, both sides of Warren Dr between Flower and Estes)
Open – looking for a volunteer.

At Large:

– Ken Fischer, 303-472-9746
blazerwood@gmail.com

– Doug Whitten, 303-986-7157
whittend@comcast.net

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April 2023

Hello Southern Gables Neighborhood,

Happy spring! As you might have already seen or heard, the long-awaited paved walking path has been completed! While it is not a full circle due to the rising cost of asphalt and construction, it fits with the campus to make a good walking path. This is such a lovely addition to our property, and we are so grateful for Doug Whitten, the City of Lakewood, Jeffco Schools, and all those involved in making this happen.

We have had a busy spring at Green Gables full of learning and fun! Some highlights have included:

- The PTA hosted a successful Family Math Night.
- Read Across America week featured a special visit from the Colorado Mammoth and Jeffco Chief of Schools, Dave Weiss.
- Our school participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Denver. The float was incredible, the school spirit amazing and everyone had lots of fun!
- We were fortunate to have an author visit from Deon Leonard, author of New York Times Bestseller, Finding Gobi. Gobi the dog was the special guest and Deon did an incredible job telling his story and engaging students!
- We also have continued our monthly circles elevating the seven habits of character and GOLD behavior (**G**ive Respect, **O**ffer Kindness, **L**isten and Learn, **D**emonstrate Safety).

School safety is always a top priority and in light of recent events is heavy on everyone's mind. The safety of our school is a community effort, and we appreciate your continued diligence in ensuring our school is safe. We appreciate your help in remaining off school grounds between 7:45 am to 3:20 pm on weekdays, always signing in and out if helping at the garden or visiting the school for any reason, and reporting anything suspicious to us concerning Green Gables Elementary.

We appreciate your continued partnership!

Jenn Withee

Principal | Green Gables Elementary

Even good neighbors sometimes need reminding to be good. If you have concerns about fences, weeds, neglected vehicles or other such problems and you can't work it out, see lakewood.org/codeenforcement to check the rules and contact the right City agency if necessary. The City of Lakewood even offers mediation for legal disputes with neighbors, as well as many other services for neighborhood improvement. Check out lakewood.org/Community/Neighborhood-Resources.