

# Southern Gables

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Serving Southern Gables and Valley View



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

SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2024

### ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING

**Tuesday, May 7**

The Annual Membership meeting of the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association will be held at Green Gables Elementary School on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. The free taco bar that Sustainable Southern Gables organization provided last year was so popular we are repeating it. Yes,

#### Free Taco Bar!

Social time featuring the Free Taco Bar will start at 6:30. The annual neighborhood meeting will begin at 7:00, with the taco bar remaining open. We have invited City officials and a representative of the Lakewood Police Community Action Team to talk with us about current events in the city. We will cover the Association annual report and election of Board officers. All Southern Gables and Valley View residents – Association members and non-members alike – are welcome, for both the tacos and the meeting.

#### Community Garage Sale Weekend Friday-Saturday June 7 and 8, 8 AM – 5 PM

We are teaming up with our neighbors at Parkwest Ridge, the neighborhood across Garrison from Southern Gables, for 2 days of shopping and fun. Both Parkwest Ridge and Southern Gables will advertise the weekend for greater exposure, and we will produce a map to guide shoppers to all the participants.

#### Get your garage sale on the map

Call or text Marci DeMott at 303-319-3177 no later than Tuesday June 4 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. With lots of participants offering all kinds of bargains (and clearing out their garages) this is going to be great!

### SGNA PRESIDENT'S CORNER

While we're thinking most of the winter snow is behind us, we know to protect any plants that are set out, and not to leave the hoses connected overnight, until after Mother's Day. Spring in Colorado can bring all kinds of surprises. It should come as no surprise though, that our Southern Gables neighborhood is a great place to live, work, and play. Friendly neighbors look out for each other, socialize, and work to keep the neighborhood safe and clean. That makes it easy for us to do what the Neighborhood Association is supposed to do, which is...

*Help make our great neighborhood even better.*

In this issue of our semiannual newsletter you will find news about spring and summer activities and events. Lakewood is such a great place to live, and here in Southern Gables we are especially fortunate.

May 7 will be a good day to get together. We will hold the annual meeting of the Neighborhood Association at the Green Gables Elementary cafeteria, 7:00 PM. Come early for a free taco bar starting at 6:30.

Community involvement? Sure! Meet neighbors by participating in the Community Garage Sale weekend June 7-8, as a seller or a shopper. Then you can take us up on our offer to help sponsor a block party, and invite lots of neighbors. And to cap off the summer, come and enjoy our annual **Neighborhood Night Out** on August 23. Music and treats, an exciting free raffle, games and displays all make a background for visiting with old friends and meeting new ones.

Join us!

– Bruce McDonald

#### Check out our neighborhood website

[SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com](http://SouthernGablesNeighborhoodAssociation.com) for neighborhood information, events, and weekly articles of local interest. "Subscribe" to get free notifications when new articles are published.

## A Plethora of Possibilities

We have so many great things we can choose to do all around Southern Gables. Besides the mountains, streams, and lakes, we can find great cultural and participation events. Here are a few to get you started.

**Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana.** Electrifying flamenco dance highlights the dynamic interplay between the dancers and live musicians. Wednesday, April 17, 2 PM and Thursday, April 18, 7:30 PM. Tickets starting at \$25, Lakewood Cultural Center.\*

**Lakewood Symphony Orchestra** presents *Isn't It Romantic*. Thursday, May 30, 7:30 PM. Tickets start at \$15. Lakewood Cultural Center

**Rockin' Block Party.** Rock out to *Bad Company* and *Fleetwood Mac* tribute bands, and then shriek in nostalgic fright with the classic summer blockbuster, *Jaws*. Includes food trucks and a beer garden. Free admission. 5 to 11 PM on Saturday June 1. Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park.

**Big Belmar Bash.** A community gathering to include music, kids' activities, 80 local vendors, food, and drinks, 5 to 10 PM, with a drone light show at approximately 9:15 PM. Free. Wednesday July 3, Belmar Shopping District.

**Dinosaur Ridge.** Really, you've never been there? Or not since you were in middle school? It's right next door! Open year round. Bus tours, walking tours, or explore on your own. [Dinoridge.org](http://Dinoridge.org) for seasonal hours.

**Buell Theater.** What would the world of Oz be like if you were the Wicked Witch? Wicked? *Wicked* is the old story in a musical with a different twist. USA Today calls it "a complete triumph! An original musical that will make you laugh, cry, and think." Family-friendly. July 24 – August 25.

\* Our own hometown Lakewood Cultural Center has so many high-quality presentations that we couldn't begin to list them all. Take a look at [lakewood.org/LCC](http://lakewood.org/LCC). If you're not already a fan, you'll be amazed!

Southern Gables Association dues are voluntary, \$20 per year, and help do good things for the community. You can pay dues by check to PO Box 36072, Denver CO 80236, or on our website, or using these QR codes (include name, address & email) or in person to any Board member.



Venmo @SGNA-Lakewood  
20.00 pers, 20.49 bsns



PayPal or Credit Card  
20.55

## Free Mulch Giveaway Lakewood Forestry Department

Springtime planting has already started all around Southern Gables, and with beautiful weather ahead we know our dedicated neighbors will keep working to beautify their homes. When it comes to having healthy and attractive gardens and flower beds, mulch is a must. A good mulch layer retains moisture and conserves water, prevents soil erosion, suppresses weeds, moderates temperature swings, and looks good too. And when it comes to the price of mulch, there's no better price than free.

### Mulch Giveaway Saturdays May 4 and 11, from 7 AM to 3 PM

Lakewood residents can get free mulch at the City Greenhouse, 9556 W Yale Ave. City staff workers will be available to assist with loading. Saturdays May 4 and 11, from 7 AM to 3 PM.

## Southern Gables Book Club

Come one, come all! My name is Carolyn Wolfrum. I've been interested in creating a neighborhood book club for some time now and I'm finally taking the plunge! Let's meet at my home, 8823 West Warren at 6:30 on Thursday, June 13th. That night, we could get to know each other a little and discuss what kind of books we might be interested in reading, decide how often to meet, and so on. If you are interested, please email me at [cwolfrum93@gmail.com](mailto:cwolfrum93@gmail.com) to let me know. We will have simple snacks and drinks available. I look forward to getting to know and reading with neighbors from Southern Gables!

## Emerald Ash Borer in the Neighborhood

An invasive beetle called the Emerald Ash Borer is threatening some of our trees. If you have ash trees and they are still healthy it might not be too late to save them. Do you know what ash trees look like? You can learn how to identify them, and what to do: read the info at [www.bit.ly/sg-eab](http://www.bit.ly/sg-eab).

## You probably know...

An elderly neighbor who doesn't get out, or someone recovering from an injury or unable to drive for some reason. Maybe they have a relative or friend who stops by once in a while – or maybe not.

We met recently with representatives of an organization called Volunteers in Action (VIA). They are a faith-based nonprofit that connects vetted and trained volunteers with elderly, isolated or disabled people who need things like these:

- Friendly visiting
- Grocery shopping
- Reading to the visually impaired
- Providing help with filling out forms
- Assisting with organizational tasks
- Completing simple home repairs
- Providing occasional transportation to medical appointments

VIA has some volunteers available in the Southern Gables area! They recently connected with students from Colorado Christian University who are interested in helping out in the local community. If you or one of your neighbors could use some assistance in any of the areas mentioned above, they would love to hear from you! Also, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer, and connecting to someone in your community who needs a little extra help, call Volunteers in Action at 303-713-9144. You can also fill out a "Request a Volunteer" form online at [www.viadenver.org](http://www.viadenver.org). It's good to know that where there is a need...

**... there are good people all around.**

## Bunko? What's that?

There is a neighborhood Bunko group in Southern Gables. We get together once a month at each other's homes during the afternoon. The Bunko game is played with 3 dice and if you can count to 6 you will be fine. It's a lot of fun. There are some months that we do need substitute players. If you live in the Southern Gables neighborhood and are interested in playing or maybe organizing a group, you can contact me and I would be happy to assist you. – *Judy Whitten, 303-986-7157 or [jewhitten@comcast.net](mailto:jewhitten@comcast.net)*

## "Very Local" Events (Just Us)

- **Southern Gables Neighborhood Luncheons** are held monthly, first Thursdays at 11:30 at local restaurants. The May 2 luncheon will be at Johnny's New York Pizza, 1000 S. Wadsworth Blvd. RSVP to Judy Whitten, [jewhitten@comcast.net](mailto:jewhitten@comcast.net) 303-986-7157. For the venues each month you can check "Events" at [southerngablesneighborhoodassociation.com](http://southerngablesneighborhoodassociation.com).
- **Earth Day Bike Ride** Saturday April 27, 12:30 PM. Weather permitting, Dale Trone will lead a Quiet Streets ride from Jewell Park to Lakewood's Earth Day Celebration at Heritage Center. Free bicycle valet parking will be provided.
- **Seed and Plant Swap** May 4, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, sponsored by Sustainable Southern Gables. Anyone can stop by and trade seeds, starters and perennials. There will even be seeds available for giveaway if you don't have any to swap. A master gardener will be there to answer gardening questions.
- **Neighborhood Annual Meeting Tuesday** May 7, 6:30 for the Taco Bar and 7:00 meeting. You'll be there, right?
- **Walk, Bike, and Roll to School Day** Wednesday May 8, 2024, is a day to celebrate different environmentally friendly and physically healthy safe ways to get to school. **Be especially aware** of more students on the streets and sidewalks to and from school that day. **Easy volunteer opportunity!** Crossing Guard Volunteers are needed not only on that day but any school day! Reach out to Jennifer Seltz at Green Gables Elementary, [Jennifer.Seltz@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Jennifer.Seltz@jeffco.k12.co.us).
- **Community Garage Sale Weekend** Friday June 7 and Saturday June 8. Southern Gables, Valley View, and Parkwest Ridge. Sign up to get on the list: see item on page 1. If you're signed up we will put your location on a map to be made available to garage-shoppers.
- **Rain Barrel Workshop** Saturday June 22, 10:00 AM, 8341 W. Evans St. Free. Learn the methods, benefits, legal requirements, and limits of collecting rainwater for your own outdoor use.
- **Neighborhood Night Out**  
**Friday August 23, 5:00 – 8:00 PM**  
at Green Gables Elementary School  
**See you there!**

## SOUTHERN GABLES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION BOARD

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

**Vice President:** Lisa Huntington-Kinn,  
303-808-8260 lisa@hkrealstateco.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) Joe Woelkers, 904-755-3523  
jws@zanerhardenlaw.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

Newsletter contributors: Bruce McDonald, Carolyn Wolfrum, Judy Whitten

## Southern Gables Block Parties

Back in 2021, after Neighborhood Night Out was summarily precluded by COVID, Neighborhood Association President Doug Whitten came up with the idea of sponsoring individual block parties, to be held out on the streets or driveways and front yards. People could mask up at their own discretion, keep their own distance, and still have some much-needed neighborly contact. We thought it would take the place of Neighborhood Night Out until we could resume the big event. It turns out – wouldn't you know it – it was so popular we decided to keep doing both! So, again this year we will sponsor block parties in July and early August, with stipends of \$100 to block party hosts. Apply by email to [SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com](mailto:SGNA.Lakewood@gmail.com).

The city of Lakewood liked our idea so much they adopted it. The City's "Get Together" Program is intended to bring neighbors together around a shared purpose, activity or project. In addition to things like a neighborhood cleanup or an entryway beautification project, they will also fund block parties, with a limit up to \$500. They require an application and then submit a summary along with receipts and photos after the event. Details: [Lakewood.org/GTgrant](http://Lakewood.org/GTgrant).

## Volunteer! A good way to enjoy life more

According to the Mayo Clinic, "Volunteers report better physical health than nonvolunteers. Research also has shown that volunteering leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety, especially for people 65 and older.

"Volunteering reduces stress and increases positive, relaxed feelings by releasing dopamine. By spending time in service to others, volunteers report feeling a sense of meaning and appreciation, both given and received, which can have a stress-reducing effect."

The first step is the hardest. After that one, it is surprisingly easy to get involved in making our community even better. For a list of local volunteer opportunities check out the list on our Southern Gables website. Shortcut to the list: [bit.ly/sg-vol](https://bit.ly/sg-vol).

**We always like to remind you** that the Southern Gables Neighborhood Association is not an HOA. No covenants, no nagging letters about trimming hedges. We're all about friendly interaction and community spirit. For code enforcement matters, see [lakewood.org/codeenforcement](http://lakewood.org/codeenforcement) to check the rules and contact the right agency if necessary.